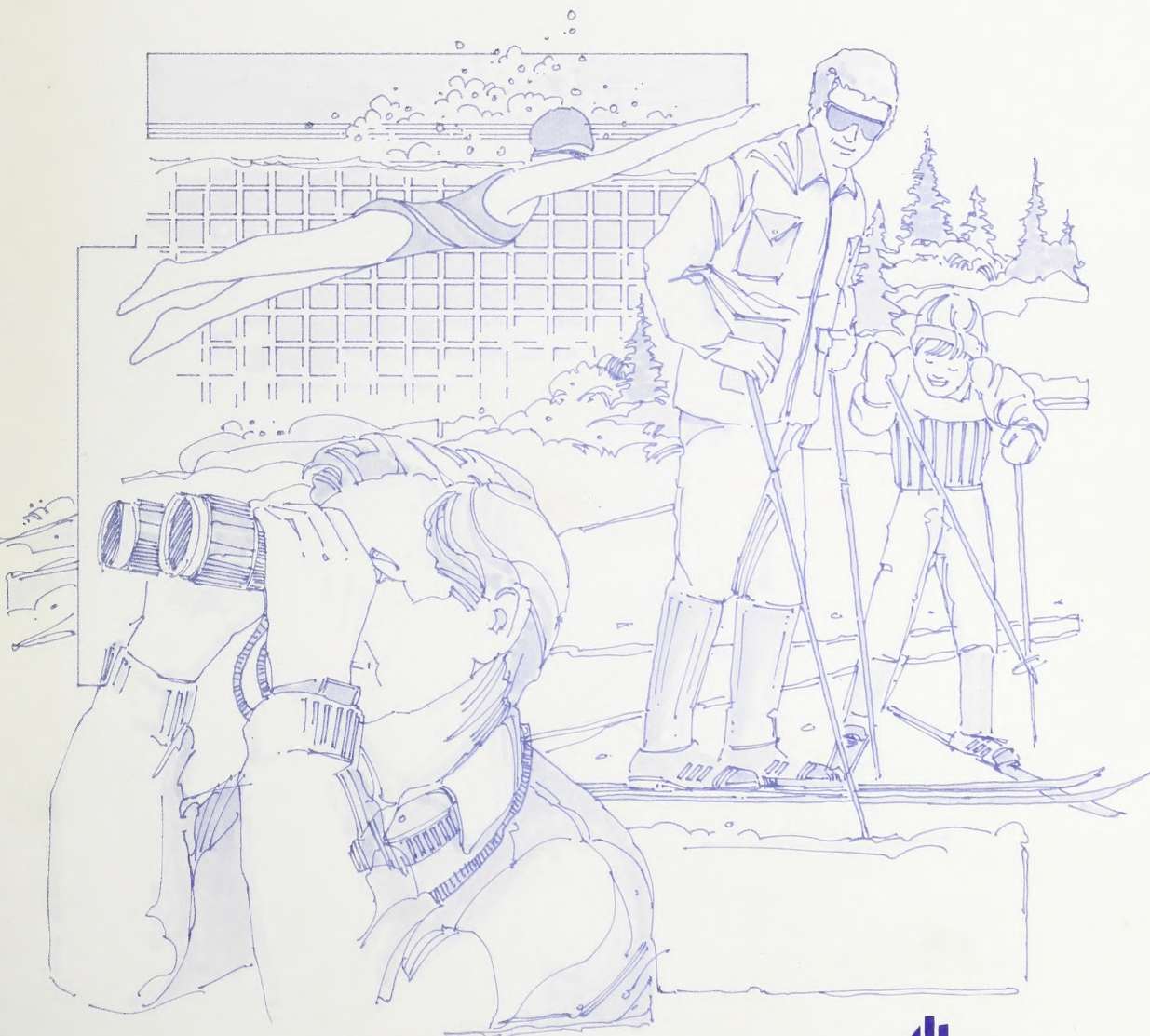


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**VOLUNTEERISM**  
**AN ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM THE**  
**1988 GENERAL RECREATION SURVEY**





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**1988 GENERAL RECREATION SURVEY**

**Prepared for**  
**Corporate Planning Services Branch**  
**Corporate Services Division**  
**Alberta Recreation and Parks**

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**March, 1989**





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The information on volunteerism summarized in this report is based on data from the 1988 General Recreation Survey, conducted by Alberta Recreation and Parks. Selected findings are compared with results of the 1981 and 1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation. Key results of this analysis were as follows:

1. Just over one-third of the respondents (36.6%, n=1453) reported they had done volunteer work in the recreation, sports, and parks sector. The remaining 63.4% (n=2521) had not worked as a recreation volunteer during the previous year.
2. The types of respondents who were most likely to be volunteers in the recreation, sports, and parks sector had the following characteristics: between the ages of 35 and 44 years; living in households with school-age children; having higher educational levels; household incomes in the mid and upper levels; and living outside of the large urban centres. In 1987/88, respondents living in the Calgary area, St. Paul, High Prairie, and Lethbridge Regions also showed a relatively high rate of volunteering.
3. The types of respondents who were most likely to be non-volunteers in the recreation, sports, and parks sector had the following characteristics: under the age of 25 or over 65 years of age; living in households with no school-age children or in single parent family households; having less than a high school education and household incomes under \$30,000/year; and, living in urban locations, particularly Calgary and Edmonton.
4. According to Alberta Recreation and Parks survey data, these profile characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers have been very consistent from 1981 to 1988.
5. Local sports teams or clubs and community leagues or associations attracted the highest proportions of volunteers.
6. The majority of volunteers worked with more than one organization.
7. Volunteers working with the various types of organizations had quite distinctive socio-demographic characteristics.



8. The majority of volunteers (69.8%) had participated as a general volunteer worker. About 30% had worked as a committee member, coach/manager/instructor, or executive.
9. Volunteers working at each of these volunteer jobs could be distinguished on a number of socio-demographic characteristics.
10. Forty percent of the volunteer respondents had received some form of training, while sixty percent had received no training for their volunteer work. The most prevalent type of training was informal (on-the-job) training, which was reported by about one-quarter of the volunteers. A smaller proportion (11.8%) had participated in formal training or courses.
11. Training appears to be most prevalent for volunteer workers involved with cultural groups, special sport and recreation events, and school groups. Approximately one-half of the volunteers with these groups received training.
12. Coaches, managers, and instructors were more likely than executives, committee members, or general workers to receive training.
13. Most respondents (57%) contributed, on average, between one and five hours a week. Approximately one-quarter of the volunteers worked more than 10 hours a week.
14. Volunteers contributing various amounts of time could not be distinguished on any characteristics, except for age. The amount of volunteer time contributed tends to increase with age.
15. In both the 1984 and 1988 survey data analysis, it was concluded that, for the most part, volunteers with varying levels of time involvement could not be distinguished from the general volunteer profile.
16. Volunteers working with service clubs and recreation or parks boards reported a relatively high time commitment. More than one-third of these volunteers contributed over ten hours a week.
17. Close to one-third of the volunteers working as committee members or in executive positions contributed more than 10 hours a week to their volunteer group. About one-quarter of coaches, managers, and instructors worked more than 10 hours a week.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The General Recreation Survey

The 1988 General Recreation Survey was the fifth survey conducted by Alberta Recreation and Parks to gather information about the leisure behaviour of Albertans. The data were collected between April and July, 1988. The questionnaire was mailed to a random sample of 7,669 Alberta households, resulting in 7,038 valid contacts. Questionnaires were returned by 4,044 households, representing a response rate of 57.5%.

A copy of the survey questionnaire is provided in Appendix A. The survey was designed to provide information on the following topics:

- o household and respondent participation in a broad range of social, cultural, outdoor, and sports pursuits;
- o favorite recreation activities and frequency of participation in favorite activities;
- o reasons for participation in favorite leisure activities;
- o desire to start a new activity and activities which respondents would like to start;
- o barriers to participation in the desired activity;
- o participation in volunteer work;
- o opinions about management of provincial parks and recreation areas; and,
- o socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and households.

Basic frequency results of the 1988 General Recreation Survey have been summarized in the report "1988 General Recreation Survey" (Alberta Recreation and Parks, September, 1988).

## 1.2 The General Recreation Survey: Volunteer Participation

This report discusses findings from the 1988 General Recreation Survey pertaining to participation in volunteer work. The following questions were addressed in the volunteerism section of the survey (Question 4):

- a. Has the respondent done any volunteer work connected with recreation, sports, or parks in the past 12 months?
- b. With what types of groups did the respondent work as a volunteer?
- c. What types of volunteer jobs did the respondent do?
- d. Did the respondent receive any training for the volunteer job(s)?
- e. Was this training formal or informal?
- f. On average, how many hours per week did the respondent spend doing volunteer work during the previous 12 months?

In addition, socio-demographic information was incorporated into the data analysis to examine variations in volunteer participation among various sub-groups of the population. Variables used to define the population sub-groups in this study were:

### Lifecycle Variables

- o age;
- o gender;
- o type of household; and,
- o presence of pre-school and school age children in the household.

### Socio-economic Variables

- o household income; and,
- o respondent's educational level.



### Residence Variables

- o urban/rural location of residence\*; and,
- o regional location of residence.\*\*

### 1.3 Analysis Procedures

The 1988 General Recreation Survey volunteerism data were analyzed using the SPSSpc+ statistical package. Frequencies and crosstabulations were generated to provide the descriptive analysis of data outlined in the Terms of Reference for the study.

The Chi-square test was used to assess the statistical dependence/independence of relationships between pairs of variables. Analysis of Variance and the F test were used to assess the significance of differences among means for interval data. A probability level of .01 was used in assessing the statistical significance of the relationships. For some crosstabulation analyses, the strength of the association between two variables was assessed with Lambda and with Cramer's V or the Phi coefficient.

Additional information is provided to allow inferences about the probable accuracy of observed proportions (percentages) with respect to actual population values. For this study, a 95% level of confidence has been adopted. This means that the true value of the population parameter will fall within a computed range in 95 out of 100 cases. For estimates of proportions (percentages), the range of values for the 95 percent confidence intervals can be determined from the information summarized in Appendix C. The sample sizes on which the proportions are based are an important factor in establishing these confidence intervals.

---

\* Rural residents were defined as those living on a farm or acreage.

\*\* A map outlining the six regions defined by Alberta Recreation and Parks is provided in Appendix B. It should be noted that the Calgary Region does not include the City of Calgary and the Stony Plain Region does not include the City of Edmonton. Data for these cities are analyzed separately.

#### 1.4 Comparisons with 1981 and 1984 Public Opinion Survey Data

Questions on volunteerism were included in two previous surveys conducted by Alberta Recreation and Parks (i.e., the 1981 and the 1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation). The 1988 General Recreation Survey, however, provides the most extensive investigation of the volunteerism topic.

Wherever data permit, the 1988 General Recreation Survey findings on volunteerism are compared with findings from the 1981 and 1984 surveys. A summary of the volunteerism issues addressed in the 1981 and 1984 surveys is provided below:

##### 1981 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation

- a. Respondent and household volunteer participation during the previous 12 months;
- b. Socio-demographic characteristics of participants and non-participants; and,
- c. Attitudes about volunteerism.

The findings were presented in a report entitled "A Study of Voluntarism in Recreation" prepared for Alberta Recreation and Parks by M.J. Cox and P. Kreisel (1984).

##### 1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation

- a. Respondent and household volunteer participation during the previous 12 months;
- b. Socio-demographic characteristics of participants and non-participants; and,
- c. Amount of time spent doing volunteer work.

Results pertaining to volunteerism were presented in Section 7.0 of the report "1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation: Analysis of Results", prepared for Alberta Recreation and Parks by E. Dunn Research and Consulting Services (1986).

Overall, the number of variables on which comparisons may be made across surveys is limited. There is a further limitation associated with variations in questionnaire wording. Specifically, the 1988 General Recreation Survey addressed volunteer participation in the recreation, sports, and parks sector while previous surveys focussed on general volunteer participation.

## 1.5 Organization of the Report

The report is organized according to the following format:

Section 2.0 - examines the socio-demographic characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers and compares these characteristics across the three surveys (1981, 1984, and 1988). The amount of time spent volunteering is also examined, and variations in the amount of time contributed by various sub-groups of volunteers are investigated.

Section 3.0 - discusses the types and numbers of groups that volunteers work with, and examines variations in group membership associated with socio-demographic characteristics. The amount of time spent volunteering for various groups is also examined.

Section 4.0 - discusses the types of volunteer jobs that volunteers perform, and examines socio-demographic characteristics associated with these volunteer jobs. The amount of time contributed to various jobs is also evaluated.

Section 5.0 - focusses on the types of training that volunteers receive, and the relationship of this training to the type of volunteer group and type of volunteer job performed.

Section 6.0 - provides an overview of the key findings and their implications for volunteer organizations.



## 2.0 STUDY RESULTS: VOLUNTEER CHARACTERISTICS

### 2.1 Introduction

In this section of the report, the socio-demographic characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers are discussed. Since the survey inquired about the number of hours a week contributed to volunteer work, this section also examines the characteristics of volunteers with varying degrees of involvement. Where data permit, comparisons are made with the findings of the 1981 and 1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation.

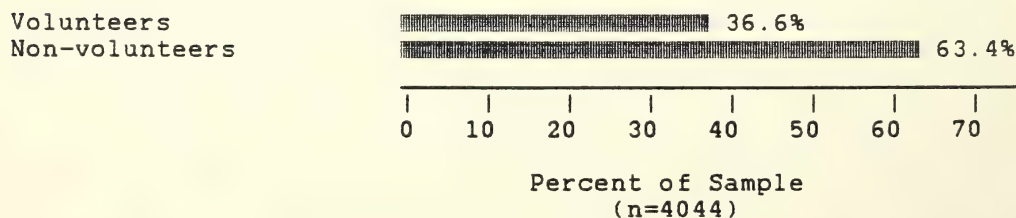
### 2.2 Volunteer Participation

In order to determine the proportions of volunteers and non-volunteers in the survey sample, respondents were asked: "Have you done volunteer work connected with recreation, sports, or parks in the past 12 months?". The results are summarized in Figure 2.1.

- o Just over one-third of the respondents (36.6%, n=1453) reported they had done volunteer work in the recreation sector. The remaining 63.4% (n=2521) had not worked as a recreation volunteer during the previous year.
- o In 1981 and 1984, 40% of the Public Opinion Survey respondents were volunteers. However, these previous surveys examined general volunteer participation, whereas the 1988 survey asked specifically about volunteer involvement in the "recreation, sports, or parks" sector. Due to this difference in measurement, no conclusions could be made regarding trends in volunteer participation from 1984 to 1988.

Figure 2.1

Proportion of Volunteers and Non-Volunteers  
in the Survey Sample



## 2.3 Socio-Demographic Profiles of Volunteers and Non-Volunteers

The characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers were investigated through a series of cross-tabulation analyses. Three types of socio-demographic variables were considered in the development of these profiles:

- i. Lifecycle variables (i.e., age, gender, household type, and presence of children);
- ii. Socio-economic factors (i.e., education, household income); and,
- iii. Residence variables (i.e., urban/rural, and regional location).

Volunteers could be distinguished from non-volunteers on all of these variables, with the exception of gender and the presence of pre-school age children in the household. However, tests of association which measure the strength and predictive value of the relationships (i.e., Lambda, Cramer's V, and Phi) indicate that, although statistically significant, these relationships are weak. Details of these findings are outlined below.

### 2.3.1 Lifecycle Variables

Profile data depicting the lifecycle characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers are summarized in Table 2.1. This table shows the proportions of respondents within each socio-demographic category who were volunteers or non-volunteers. For example, 29.1% of respondents under the age of 25 were volunteers, while 34.9% of respondents between 25 and 34 years were volunteers.

The following observations were made with regard to these data:

- o Participation as a volunteer peaks in the mid-adult years (between 35 and 44 years of age). Forty-five percent of respondents in this age group were volunteers, compared to 36.6% of the sample as a whole. The proportion of volunteers was lowest for the young adult age category (under 25 years of age) (29.1%), and for adults in the category 65 years or over (32.1%).

Table 2.1  
Socio-Demographic Profiles of Volunteers  
and Non-Volunteers:  
Lifecycle Variables

	Volunteers (36.6% of sample) %	Non-Volunteers (63.4% of sample) %	Number of Respondents	Chi- square df p.
<u>Age (Years)</u>				
Under 25	29.1	70.9	(330)	43.238
25 to 34	34.9	65.1	(1192)	4
35 to 44	45.1	54.9	(907)	.0000
45 to 64	35.1	64.9	(970)	
65 and over	32.1	67.9	(517)	
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	37.1	62.9	(1765)	0.258
Female	36.2	63.8	(2140)	1 N.S.
<u>Household Type</u>				
Couple - no children	29.8	70.2	(1032)	87.305
Couple with children	44.4	55.6	(1770)	5
Single person	29.2	70.8	(518)	.0000
Single parent family	27.5	72.5	(153)	
Two or more unrelated adults	36.7	63.3	(128)	
Two or more related adults	31.6	68.4	(256)	
<u>Children Under 6 Years</u>				
Not present in household	35.9	64.1	(3163)	2.665 1
Present in household	39.1	60.9	(811)	N.S.
<u>Children 6 to 17</u>				
Not present in household	30.9	69.1	(2769)	123.240 1
Present in household	49.5	50.5	(1205)	.0000



- o There was no significant difference in the proportions of males and females who volunteered.
- o The incidence of volunteering is greatest for those living in households consisting of a couple with children. Forty-four percent of respondents living in this type of household participated in volunteer work. The lowest rate of participation was for single parent family households (27.5%), single persons (29.2%), and couples with no children (29.8%).
- o The presence in the household of children under six years of age did not make a difference in the propensity to volunteer. Respondents with pre-school-age children volunteered at essentially the same rate as those with no children of this age.
- o The presence in the household of children six to seventeen years of age was associated with a relatively high rate of volunteering. Approximately one-half of respondents with children in this age group were volunteers, compared to 31% of respondents with no school-age children in the household.
- o Non-volunteers were most likely to be under 25 years or over 65 years of age, and to be from households consisting of single parent families, single persons, or couples with no children. A lower rate of volunteer participation was associated with the absence of school-age children in the household.

### 2.3.2 Socio-Economic Variables

Profile data depicting the socio-economic characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers are summarized in Table 2.2.

- o The incidence of volunteering increases as educational level increases. Volunteering was most evident among respondents with a university education (approximately 41%), as opposed to those with less than a high school education (29.2%).

Table 2.2  
Socio-Demographic Profiles of Volunteers  
and Non-Volunteers:  
Socio-Economic and Residence Variables

	Volunteers (36.6% of sample) %	Non-Volunteers (63.4% of sample) %	Number of Respondents	Chi- square df p.
<u>Education</u>				
Less than high school	29.2	70.8	(455)	21.885
High school	35.8	64.2	(1312)	4
Technical-vocational	35.5	64.5	(948)	.0002
University under- graduate program	41.4	58.6	(614)	
University graduate program	41.8	58.2	(383)	
<u>Income</u>				
Less than \$10,001	30.5	69.5	(275)	20.030
\$10,001 to \$30,000	33.9	66.1	(1215)	4
\$30,001 to \$50,000	39.3	60.7	(1178)	.0005
\$50,001 to \$70,000	41.9	58.1	(578)	
\$70,001 or over	40.4	59.6	(361)	
<u>Location of Residence</u>				
Urban	34.7	65.3	(3362)	32.007
Rural	48.0	52.0	(490)	1
				.0000
<u>Region of Residence</u>				
Lethbridge Region	42.4	57.6	(526)	82.241
Calgary Region*	48.9	51.1	(223)	7
Red Deer Region	36.4	63.6	(396)	.0000
Stony Plain Region**	39.6	60.4	(480)	
St. Paul Region	47.4	52.6	(232)	
High Prairie Region	44.7	55.3	(329)	
Calgary	30.3	69.7	(985)	
Edmonton	28.8	71.2	(771)	

\* Does not include the City of Calgary.

\*\* Does not include the City of Edmonton.

- o The incidence of volunteering was highest for respondents reporting household incomes in the mid and upper income categories (i.e., \$30,001/year or greater).
- o Non-volunteers tend to be characterized by less than a high school education and household incomes under \$30,001/year.

### 2.3.3 Residence Variables

The proportions of respondents living in different locations who are volunteers and non-volunteers are reported above in Table 2.2.

- o Rural residents were much more likely to be volunteers (48.0%) than were urban residents (34.7%).
- o The highest rates of volunteer participation in 1987/88 were shown by residents of the region surrounding Calgary. Almost one-half of the respondents (48.9%) living in this area had volunteered in the previous year. Respondents living in the St. Paul, High Prairie and Lethbridge Regions also showed relatively high rates of participation (between 42% and 47% of respondents).
- o The lowest rates of volunteer participation were evident for urban respondents, particularly those living in Calgary (30.3%) and Edmonton (28.8%).
- o The incidence of volunteering reported in the survey may reflect volunteer opportunities associated with special events conducted during the previous year. For example, the high rate of volunteer participation shown for residents of the Calgary Region likely reflects the volunteer opportunities available in conjunction with the Winter Olympics staged in Calgary in February, 1988. In this regard, it is interesting to note that residents of the City of Calgary reported a relatively low rate of volunteer participation during this same time period.



#### 2.3.4 Summary Profiles of Volunteers and Non-Volunteers

This analysis reveals that volunteers and non-volunteers differ in their socio-demographic makeup. Based on the 1988 General Recreation Survey findings, the types of respondents who are most likely to be volunteers or non-volunteers in the recreation, sports, and parks sector have the following characteristics:

##### Volunteers

- o between the ages of 35 and 44 years;
- o living in households with school-age children.
- o having higher educational levels;
- o reporting mid and upper household incomes levels; and,
- o living outside of the large urban centres.
- o In 1987/88, respondents living in the Calgary area, St. Paul, High Prairie, and Lethbridge Regions also showed a relatively high propensity to volunteer.

##### Non-volunteers

- o under the age of 25 or over 65 years of age;
- o living in households with no school-age children or in single parent family households;
- o having less than a high school education and household incomes under \$30,000/year; and,
- o living in urban locations, particularly Calgary and Edmonton.

## 2.4 Comparisons of Socio-Demographic Profiles of Volunteers and Non-Volunteers: 1981, 1984, and 1988 Survey Data

The socio-demographic profiles of volunteers and non-volunteers were compared for each of the three survey years. As reported above, the 1988 survey identified characteristics of participants in the "recreation, sport, and parks" sector, whereas the 1981 and 1984 surveys looked at general volunteer participation. In comparing the 1988 and previous surveys, it was not possible to discern whether observed differences were a reflection of time-related trends in volunteer participation or differences between recreation and general volunteer populations. For this reason, the analysis was restricted to general comparisons of volunteer/non-volunteer profiles, rather than any statistical comparisons of proportions across survey years.

Descriptive comparisons of profiles were made for lifecycle, socio-economic, and residence variables. For some variables, it was necessary to combine response categories to facilitate comparisons across surveys. General similarities and differences which were identified in this comparison are outlined in the following discussion and summarized below in Table 2.5.

- o A key finding of this comparison was that the predominate profile characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers are very consistent across the three surveys, despite a change in the criterion for defining the volunteer.

### 2.4.1 Lifecycle Variables

Data concerning the lifecycle profiles of volunteers are summarized for 1981, 1984, and 1988 in Table 2.3. This table shows the proportions of respondents in each socio-demographic category who were volunteers in each year. For example, in 1981, 30.6% of the respondents under 25 years of age worked as a volunteer. In 1984, 28.5% of respondents in this age group were volunteers, while 29.1% volunteered in 1988.

Table 2.3

Comparisons of Lifecycle Profiles of Volunteers  
for 1981, 1984, and 1988

	Proportion of Respondents in each Category Who Were Volunteers		
	1981* %	1984* %	1988** %
<u>Age (Years)</u>			
Under 25	30.6	28.5	29.1
25 to 34	40.6	38.3	34.9
35 to 44	50.5	52.0	45.1
45 to 64	42.6	40.9	35.1
65 and over	32.5	39.5	32.1
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	41.6	39.3	37.1
Female	38.8	44.2	36.2
<u>Household Type ***</u>			
Couple - no children	32.9	32.3	29.8
Couple with children	50.7	47.8	44.4
One or more single persons	28.0	34.9	30.9
Single parent family	33.6	44.5	27.5
<u>Children Under 6 Years</u>			
Not present in household	44.7	40.2	35.9
Present in household	44.9	43.0	39.1
<u>Children 6 to 17</u>			
Not present in household	42.1	35.0	30.9
Present in household	57.0	53.2	49.5

\* General volunteers.

\*\* Volunteers in the recreation, sport, and parks sector.

\*\*\* Categories of this variable were combined to facilitate comparisons across surveys.



### Age

- o The general age profile of volunteers has remained quite stable from 1981 to 1988. In each survey, an inverted U-shaped pattern was evident, with the incidence of volunteering peaking in the 35 to 44 year age range. In all surveys, the incidence of volunteering was lowest for young adults under 25 years and for adults 65 years or older.

### Gender

- o In both the 1981 survey and 1988 survey, there were no significant differences in the proportions of male and female respondents who were volunteers. There was a different pattern in 1984, where the results indicated that a higher proportion of females (44.2%) were involved in volunteer work compared to males (39.3%).

### Household Type

- o In all surveys, the highest incidence of volunteering was evident for respondents living in households consisting of a couple with children, as opposed to other household types.
- o In 1984, 44% of respondents from single parent families were involved with volunteer work. In 1988, however, this group showed the lowest level of participation (27.5%) compared to all other household types. This may represent a decline in participation from previous years or, alternatively, indicate that this group may not volunteer as readily for the recreation, sports, and parks sector as for the general volunteer sector.
- o Consistently, the presence of pre-school age children in the household did not have a significant bearing on the propensity to volunteer. In contrast, the presence of school-age children in the household was associated with higher levels of volunteer involvement in 1981, 1984, and 1988.

#### 2.4.2 Socio-Economic Variables

Summary data comparing the proportions of volunteers in each of the educational and income categories across survey years are presented in Table 2.4. The following observations were made regarding these data:

##### Education

- o Data from all three surveys were consistent in showing that participation as a volunteer increases positively with education. Respondents with a university education are more likely than those with lower levels of education to be volunteers.

##### Household Income

- o In 1984, volunteer participation tended to increase with income, and was particularly high for those with income levels of \$50,000 or more. An increase in participation with income was also evident in 1988. In 1988, however, there was a more noticeable variation in participation between those with household incomes under \$30,001 per year (lower participation) and those with higher incomes (higher participation).
- o Household income data from 1981 were not incorporated into the comparison since categories for measuring household income could not be equated with the other two surveys.

#### 2.4.3 Residence Variables

Comparisons of volunteer profiles according to location of residence are summarized in Table 2.4.

##### Urban/Rural Location

- o Data from the 1981, 1984, and 1988 surveys were very consistent in showing that rural residents are more likely to volunteer than are urban residents.

Table 2.4  
Comparisons of Socio-Economic and Residence  
Profiles of Volunteers  
for 1981, 1984, and 1988

	Proportion of Respondents in each Category Who Were Volunteers		
	1981*	1984*	1988**
	%	%	%
<hr/>			
<u>Education</u> ***			
Less than high school	31.8	31.2	29.2
High school	39.2	36.7	35.8
Technical-vocational	41.2	42.8	35.5
University	45.8	46.2	41.5
<u>Income</u> ***			
Less than \$10,001	n/a	32.1	30.5
\$10,001 to \$30,000	n/a	39.3	33.9
\$30,001 to \$50,000	n/a	42.0	39.3
\$50,001 or over	n/a	48.1	41.3
<u>Location of Residence</u>			
Urban	39.0	39.7	34.7
Rural	56.7	51.3	48.0
<hr/>			

\* General volunteers.

\*\* Volunteers in the recreation, sport, and parks sector.

\*\*\* Categories of this variable were combined to facilitate comparisons across surveys.

n/a No comparison possible.



### Regional Location

- o The administrative regions defined by Alberta and Recreation and Parks have changed from 1981 to 1988. Therefore, regional volunteer profiles from 1988 could not be readily compared with 1984 and 1981 data. Furthermore, comparisons could not be meaningfully interpreted, since any variations from year to year would likely reflect the changing locations of special events and volunteer opportunities throughout the province as much as any regional differences in the propensity to volunteer.

#### 2.4.4 Non-Volunteers

The general profiles of non-volunteers were very similar in 1988, 1984 and 1981. In all three survey years, non-volunteers were consistently characterized as follows:

- o under 25 years of age or 65 years of age and older;
- o from households consisting of couples with no children and single persons living alone or with others;
- o having lower education and income levels; and,
- o residents of large urban centres as opposed to smaller communities and rural areas.

There were were some variations in non-volunteer profile characteristics which were evident in this comparison across surveys. In 1984, a higher proportion of males were non-volunteers compared to females, but this difference was not evident in 1988. A higher proportion of respondents from single-parent family households were non-volunteers in 1988 compared to 1984.

Table 2.5

Comparisons of Volunteer Profiles  
for 1981, 1984, and 1988

Similarities 1981, 1984, 1988	Differences 1981, 1984, 1988
<hr/>	
<u>Age</u>	
Volunteering peaks between the ages of 35 and 44. The incidence of volunteering is lowest for adults under 25 years and over 65.	
<u>Gender</u>	
In 1981 and 1988, males and females volunteered at similar rates.	In 1984, a higher proportion of females than males was involved in volunteer work.
<u>Household Type</u>	
People living in households consisting of a couple with children are most likely to volunteer. Higher rates of volunteering are evident for those with school-age children. Lower rates of volunteering are evident for those living in households with no children.	Respondents from single parent family households showed lower rates of volunteer participation in 1988 compared to previous years.
<u>Education</u>	
Volunteering increases with education.	
<u>Income</u>	
Volunteering is associated with mid-and upper income groups.	
<u>Urban/Rural</u>	
Volunteering is more prevalent among rural residents than urban residents. Residents of Edmonton and Calgary report relatively low levels of volunteer participation.	

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## 2.5 Amount of Volunteer Time

In order to distinguish between casual and more involved volunteers, respondents were asked to estimate the number of hours per week they spent doing volunteer work during the previous 12 months.

- o Figure 2.2 shows that the greatest proportion of respondents (57%) contributed, on average, between one and five hours a week.
- o Approximately one-quarter of the volunteers worked more than 10 hours a week.

Respondents contributing different amounts of time to volunteer work were compared on each of the lifecycle, socio-economic, and residence variables.

- o Of these nine variables, only age was associated with the amount of time spent working as a volunteer. Volunteers contributing various amounts of time could not be distinguished on any other characteristics. It is thus apparent that the volunteer profiles developed above (see Section 2.3) are generally applicable to volunteers with various levels of volunteer commitment.

The findings concerning variations in amount of volunteer time with age are reported in Table 2.6.

- o Overall, the amount of volunteer time contributed appears to increase with age. As age increases, there is a decrease in the proportion of volunteers working one to five hours a week, and a corresponding increase in the proportion of volunteers working a greater number of hours.
- o Respondents over 44 years of age were more likely than younger respondents to work for more than ten hours a week. Twenty-nine percent of respondents between 45 and 64 years of age, and 35.6% of those 65 years or older contributed more than 10 hours a week to volunteer work. This pattern likely reflects the increased availability of uncommitted time during the "empty nest" and retirement years.
- o Although people over 64 years of age have a relatively low incidence of volunteering (see Table 2.1), those who do volunteer tend to be fairly active contributors in terms of time spent volunteering.



Figure 2.2  
Proportion of Volunteers Working  
Various Hours in a Week

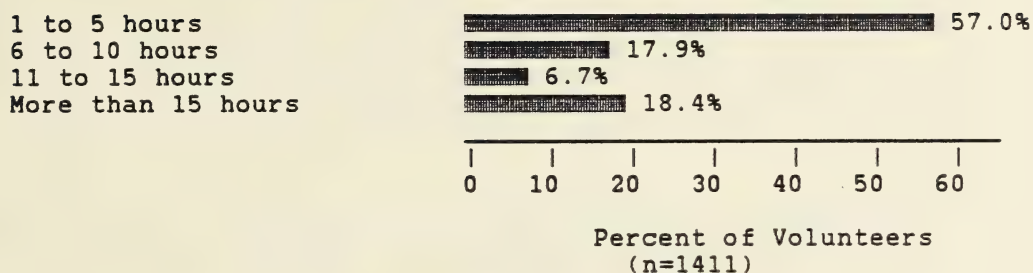


Table 2.6  
Age Variations in the Amount of Volunteer Time

Volunteer Time/Week	Under 25	25 to 34	Years 35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or over	Total Sample
1 to 5 hrs.	61.3	63.9	57.3	52.7	45.0	(57.1)
6 to 10 hrs.	16.1	13.9	20.7	18.6	19.5	(17.8)
11 to 15 hrs.	11.8	5.9	6.9	5.8	6.7	( 6.7)
More than 15 hrs.	10.8	16.3	15.1	22.9	28.9	(18.5)
Number of Volunteers	(93)	(404)	(405)	(328)	(149)	

Chi-square = 37.556 df=12 p=.0002  
Lambda = .0255

## 2.6 Amount of Volunteer Time: Comparisons with 1984 Survey Results

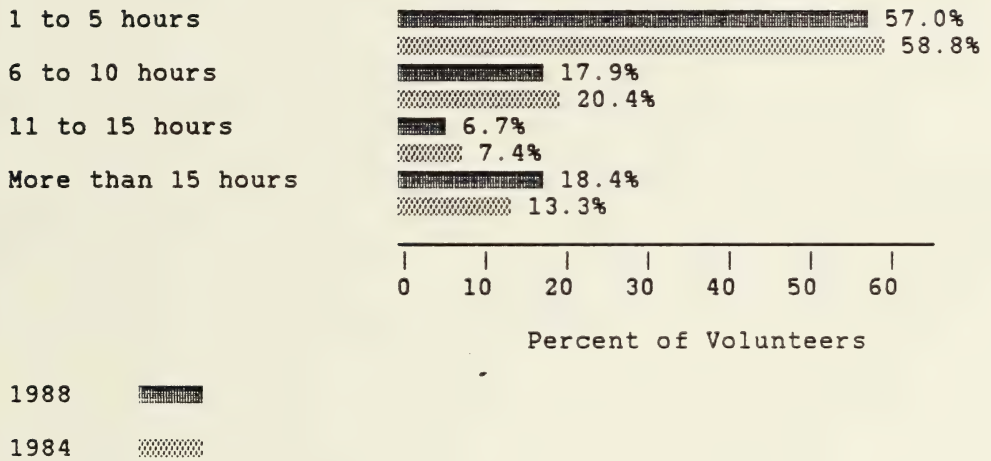
The proportions of volunteers working for various amounts of time are compared for 1984 and 1988 in Figure 2.3.

The limitation regarding differences between the 1984 and 1988 surveys in defining volunteer participants is also applicable to this comparison. Nevertheless, the general profile of volunteer time involvement is quite similar for 1984 and 1988.

- o In both 1984 and 1988, the greatest proportion of respondents reported working from one to five hours a week at a volunteer job.
- o In 1988, there was a higher proportion of volunteers who reported working 15 hours or more a week, compared to 1984. In 1984, 13.3% of the volunteers indicated that they worked for more than 15 hours a week, while in 1988, this figure was 18.4%.
- o In 1988, of nine socio-demographic variables assessed, only age was a factor in distinguishing volunteers contributing various amounts of time. This is very similar to the picture shown in 1984, where essentially no differences could be found to distinguish volunteers with different time contributions. In both 1984 and 1988, it was concluded that, for the most part, volunteers with varying levels of involvement could not be distinguished from the general volunteer profile.
- o In 1988, volunteer time contribution was found to be associated with age, with the amount of time spent volunteering increasing with age. No age-related patterns were evident in 1984.

Figure 2.3

Proportion of Volunteers Working  
Various Hours in a Week:  
1988 and 1984



### 3.0 STUDY RESULTS: TYPES OF VOLUNTEER GROUPS

#### 3.1 Participation in Various Types of Volunteer Groups

Respondents who had volunteered in the recreation, sports, and parks sector during the previous year (n=1453) were asked to indicate the various types of groups with which they had worked (Question 4b.). The proportions of volunteers involved with each type of group are summarized in Table 3.1.

- o The type of group mentioned most frequently was the local sports team or club, with which 38.1% of the sample volunteers were involved. This was followed by the community league or association (33.5%), church group (27.1%), and school group (25.6%). Approximately twenty-four percent of the volunteers in the sample had worked with special sport or recreation events such as tournaments, Regional Games, or Olympic Games.
- o There were relatively few volunteers in the sample who had worked with cultural groups (9.2%) or with recreation or parks boards (6.7%).

#### 3.2 Number of Groups

Each respondent was asked to report all types of groups with which he or she had volunteered during the previous year. Figure 3.1 presents the frequency distribution for the number of groups reported by volunteer respondents.

- o The majority of volunteers (57.8%) had worked with more than one group. Forty-two percent had worked with one group only.
- o On average, each volunteer participated in approximately 2 groups (2.08 groups/person).



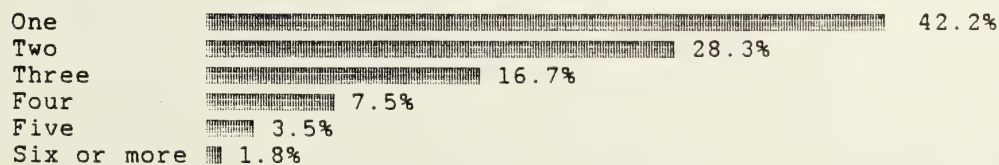
Table 3.1  
Proportion of Volunteers Working for Each  
Type of Group

Type of Group (Ranked)	Percent of Volunteers (n=1453)	Number
Local Sport Team/Club	38.1	554
Community League or Association	33.5	487
Church	27.1	394
School	25.6	373
Special Sport/Recreation Event	23.9	347
Youth Group	18.0	262
Service Club	16.2	236
Cultural Group	9.2	135
Recreation or Parks Board	6.7	98
Other	8.3	121

Note: The total is greater than 100% since respondents could identify more than one type of group.

Figure 3.1

Number of Volunteer Groups



0    5    10    15    20    25    30    35    40    45

Percent of Volunteers  
(n=1390)

The average number of groups with which volunteers were involved varied slightly for different socio-demographic groups in the population. The following patterns were observed:

- o Volunteers most likely to work for a greater number of groups were those between 35 and 44 years of age, residing in households with children, and in rural locations. This pattern is very similar to the pattern which distinguishes volunteer participants from non-volunteers. Thus, people with these characteristics are not only more likely to be volunteers, but they are more likely to work for a greater number of volunteer groups.

### 3.3 Characteristics of Volunteers Working with Different Types of Volunteer Groups

This section examines whether involvement in the various volunteer groups is associated with any socio-demographic characteristics. For each type of organization, volunteers were compared on lifecycle, socio-economic, and residence variables through a series of cross-tabulation analyses. Two sets of observations were made on these data:

- i) The first set of comparisons determined whether involvement with each volunteer group is dependent upon a variable such as age. The Chi-square test was used for this analysis. It was then possible to identify the types of people most likely and least likely to volunteer for each type of organization. For example, Table 3.2 indicates that community league or association involvement is dependent upon age ( $p=.0001$ ). The age group most likely to volunteer for community leagues is 35 to 44 years, with about 42% of the sample volunteers in this age category contributing to this type of group. Volunteers under 25 years are least likely to volunteer with community leagues (22.9%).

Table 3.2  
Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement Associated with Age

Type of Group	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 years or older	Total Sample	p.*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Community League or Association	22.9	31.5	42.5	32.4	26.5	(33.7)	.0001
Youth Group	20.8	19.7	20.8	14.7	11.4	(17.9)	N.S.
School	32.3	23.8	40.3	17.1	10.2	(25.9)	.0000
Church	25.0	21.4	22.2	27.9	50.0	(26.8)	.0000
Cultural Group	10.4	5.8	7.1	12.1	15.7	( 9.1)	.0005
Service Club	8.3	9.4	14.7	25.3	24.7	(16.4)	.0000
Local Sport Team/Club	41.7	42.8	46.9	32.6	12.0	(37.9)	.0000
Recreation or Parks Board	2.1	8.4	8.8	4.7	4.8	( 6.8)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	29.2	25.2	27.6	22.1	10.2	(23.7)	.0001
Number of Volunteers	(96)	(416)	(409)	(340)	(166)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 4 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on age.

- ii) The second set of comparisons identified the most popular volunteer groups for each socio-demographic category. This is based on the proportions of the volunteers working with each group. For example, in Table 3.2, it is possible to look at the volunteer involvement patterns of young adults under 25 years. Just over 41% of these volunteer respondents worked with local sports teams or clubs, while 32.3% worked with school groups, and 29.2% volunteered for a special sport or recreation event.

The findings pertaining to each of the lifecycle, socio-economic and residence variables are presented below. The characteristics of volunteers most likely to work with each of the volunteer groups are summarized in Table 3.11 following the discussion.

### 3.3.1 Life Cycle Variables

#### Age

There were several patterns observed for the association of age and type of volunteer organization involvement (see Table 3.2):

- o For most types of groups, volunteer involvement is associated with age.
- o Volunteering for a community league or association peaks in the mid-adult years. Forty-two percent of volunteers between 35 and 44 years of age reported volunteering for this type of group. The lowest rates of volunteering for community leagues were among adults under 25 years of age (22.9%) and those 65 years or older (26.5%).

Although not statistically significant, volunteering for a recreation or park board also showed this general trend.

- o School groups, local sports teams or clubs, and special recreation or sports events were more attractive to volunteers in the younger age categories than to those 45 years of age or older.



- o Volunteering for cultural groups and service clubs was more prevalent among volunteers 45 years of age or older than among younger volunteers.
- o The rate of volunteering for a church group was quite consistent across the young and mid-age categories, but was about twice as high for adults 65 years of age or older (50.0%).

It was also possible to identify the volunteer group preferences for each of the age categories. The top three preferences for each age group are summarized as follows:

<u>Under 25 years</u>	- local sports teams/clubs (41.7%) - school groups (32.3%) - special sport/recreation events (29.2%).
<u>25 to 34 years</u>	- local sport teams/clubs (42.8%) - community leagues or associations (31.5%) - special sport/recreation events (25.2%).
<u>35 to 44 years</u>	- local sports teams/clubs (46.9%) - community leagues or associations (42.5%) - school groups (40.3%).
<u>45 to 64 years</u>	- local sports teams/clubs (32.6%) - community leagues or associations (32.4%) - church groups (27.9%).
<u>65 years or older</u>	- church group (50%) - community leagues or associations (26.5%) - service clubs (24.7%).

#### Gender

The proportions of males and females volunteering for the various types of groups are summarized in Table 3.3.

- o There were no significant differences in the proportions of males and females volunteering for community leagues or associations, youth groups, or recreation and parks boards.

Table 3.3  
Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement  
Associated with Gender

Type of Group	Males %	Females %	Total Sample %	p. *
Community League or Association	34.7	32.4	(33.4)	N.S.
Youth Group	17.3	18.7	(18.1)	N.S.
School	16.5	33.4	(25.7)	.0000
Church	18.7	33.6	(26.7)	.0000
Cultural Group	6.3	11.5	( 9.1)	.0009
Service Club	20.2	12.6	(16.1)	.0002
Local Sport Team/Club	47.1	30.4	(38.1)	.0000
Recreation or Parks Board	7.5	6.3	( 6.9)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	28.3	20.1	(23.9)	.0004
Number of Volunteers	(654)	(775)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on gender.

- o There were several types of groups for which males were more likely than females to volunteer. These were: service clubs (20.2%), local sports teams or clubs (47.1%), and special sport or recreation events (28.3%).
- o In contrast, there were three types of groups for which females were more likely than males to volunteer. These were: school groups (33.4%), church groups (33.6%), and cultural groups (11.5%).
- o Based on the percentage of volunteer respondents participating, the most popular volunteer groups for males and females are:

Males

- local sports teams or clubs (47.1%)
- community leagues or associations (34.7%)
- special sport/recreation events (28.3%).

Females

- church groups (33.6%)
- school groups (33.4%)
- community leagues or associations (32.4%).

Household Type

Data showing the association of volunteer group involvement with household type are presented in Table 3.4.

- o Involvement with a community league or association and with a local sports team or club was dependent upon the household type of the respondent. Those whose household consisted of a couple with children were more likely than others to volunteer for these groups. Single persons and couples with no children were least likely to volunteer for these organizations.
- o Volunteering for youth groups and school groups was most prevalent for those living in households consisting of a couple with children or single parent families.
- o There were three types of respondents most likely to report participation in cultural groups and service clubs. These were couples with no children, single persons, or those living in households with two or more related adults.

Table 3.4

## Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement Associated with Household Structure

Type of Group	Couples-no Children	Couples with Children	Single Person	Single Parent Family	Two or More Unrelated Adults	Two or More Related Adults	Total Sample	p.*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Community League or Association	24.7	39.8	22.5	26.2	29.8	32.1	(33.5)	.0000
Youth Group	11.7	21.5	11.3	28.6	17.7	11.1	(17.7)	.0001
School	10.4	34.9	13.9	45.2	17.0	17.3	(26.0)	.0000
Church	32.8	25.3	28.5	21.4	14.9	24.7	(26.8)	N.S.
Cultural Group	13.3	6.7	13.2	7.1	6.4	13.6	( 9.3)	.0040
Service Club	21.4	13.0	19.9	16.7	10.6	19.8	(16.0)	.0079
Local Sport Team/Club	23.4	46.8	31.8	35.7	31.9	30.9	(38.4)	.0000
Recreation or Parks Board	6.2	8.3	5.3	2.4	2.1	2.5	( 6.8)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	21.1	22.3	25.8	16.7	38.3	33.3	(23.4)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(308)	(786)	(151)	(42)	(47)	(81)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 5 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on household type.



- o Volunteering for a church group, recreation or parks board, or special sport or recreation events did not depend on the volunteer's household characteristics.

The top three volunteer group preferences for each of the household categories are summarized as follows:

<u>Couples-no children</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- church groups (32.8%)</li> <li>- community leagues or associations (24.7%)</li> <li>- local sports teams/clubs (23.4%).</li> </ul>
<u>Couples - with children</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- local sport teams/clubs (46.8%)</li> <li>- community leagues or associations (39.8%)</li> <li>- school groups (34.9%).</li> </ul>
<u>Single persons</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- local sports teams/clubs (31.8%)</li> <li>- church groups (28.5%)</li> <li>- special sport/recreation events (25.8%).</li> </ul>
<u>Single parent family</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- school groups (45.2%)</li> <li>- local sports teams/clubs (35.7%)</li> <li>- youth groups (28.6%).</li> </ul>
<u>Two or more unrelated adults</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- special sport/recreation events (38.3%)</li> <li>- local sports team/clubs (31.9%)</li> <li>- community leagues or associations (29.8%).</li> </ul>
<u>Two or more related adults</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- special sport/recreation events (33.3%)</li> <li>- community leagues or associations (32.1%)</li> <li>- local sports team/clubs (30.9%)</li> </ul>

#### Presence of Pre-School Age Children

There were few significant variations in volunteer group involvement associated with the presence or absence of pre-school age children in the household (see Table 3.5). The following patterns were observed:

- o Youth group and school group volunteers were more likely to live in households with children under six years of age than with no children in this age category. Although not statistically significant at the .01 probability level, a similar pattern was shown for local sports teams or clubs.

Table 3.5

**Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement Associated  
with Presence of Pre-school Age Children**

Type of Group	Children Not Present %	Children Present %	Total Sample %	p. *
Community League or Association	32.0	38.8	(33.4)	N.S.
Youth Group	16.5	23.3	(18.0)	.0061
School	23.8	32.5	(25.7)	.0021
Church	27.2	26.5	(27.0)	N.S.
Cultural Group	9.9	6.9	( 9.2)	N.S.
Service Club	18.1	9.5	(16.2)	.0003
Local Sport Team/Club	36.4	43.8	(38.0)	N.S.
Recreation or Parks Board	6.4	7.9	( 6.7)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	25.2	18.3	(23.7)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(1136)	(317)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on the presence or absence of children in the household.

- o Service club volunteers tended to live in households with no pre-school age children. Although not statistically significant, there was a similar trend for special sports or recreation events.
- o Based on the percentage of volunteer respondents participating, the following preferences were observed:

Children not present

- local sports teams/clubs (36.4%).
- community leagues or associations (32.0%)
- church groups (27.2%).

Children present

- local sport teams/clubs (43.8%)
- community leagues or associations (38.8%)
- school groups (32.5%).

#### Presence of Children Between Six and Seventeen Years

Volunteer group involvement appeared to depend more on the presence of children between six and seventeen years of age in the household than on the presence of pre-school age children (see Table 3.6). The analysis revealed the following patterns:

- o Local sports teams or clubs, community leagues or associations, school groups, and youth groups had a relatively high proportion of volunteers from households with school-age children.
- o Cultural groups and service clubs tended to attract a higher proportion of volunteers living in households with no school-age children.
- o Volunteering for church groups, recreation or parks boards and special events was not dependent on the presence of school-age children in the household.
- o Based on the percentage of volunteer respondents participating, the most popular groups for volunteers living in households with or without school age children are:

Children not present

- local sports teams/clubs (30.2%)
- community leagues or associations (27.9%)
- church groups (27.7%).

Children present

- local sport teams/clubs (49.2%)
- school groups (42.8%)
- community leagues or associations (41.4%).

Table 3.6

Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement Associated  
with Presence of Children 6 to 17 Years of Age

Type of Group	Children Not Present %	Children Present %	Total Sample %	p. *
Community League or Association	27.9	41.4	(33.4)	.0000
Youth Group	13.0	25.2	(18.0)	.0000
School	13.8	42.8	(25.7)	.0000
Church	27.7	26.2	(27.0)	N.S.
Cultural Group	12.3	4.9	( 9.2)	.0000
Service Club	19.1	12.1	(16.2)	.0004
Local Sport Team/Club	30.2	49.2	(38.0)	.0000
Recreation or Parks Board	6.4	7.2	( 6.7)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	24.3	22.8	(23.7)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(857)	(596)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on the presence or absence of children in the household.



### 3.3.2 Socio-Economic Variables

The two socio-economic variables, education and household income, did not appear to be very important factors contributing to variations in voluntary group involvement. The findings for these two variables are summarized in Tables 3.7 and 3.8.

#### Education

- o Volunteer group involvement was associated with education for fewer than one-half of the organizations. Volunteering for a community league or association, a church, cultural, or service group, or a recreation or parks board did not depend on the respondent's education level.
- o Volunteering for special sports or recreation events was more likely to be associated with a post-secondary education level than with a high school education or less. A similar pattern was shown for school group involvement, but the educational differences were less marked.
- o Volunteering for local sports teams or clubs tended to be associated with a high school or technical-vocational education level, while working with a youth group was most likely to be associated with a technical-vocational education.

The most popular groups for volunteers reporting various education levels are as follows:

<u>Less than high school</u>	- church groups (33.8%) - community leagues or associations (32.3%) - local sports teams/clubs (25.6%).
<u>High school</u>	- local sport teams/clubs (43.6%) - community leagues or associations (36.4%) - school groups (27.7%).
<u>Technical - vocational</u>	- local sport teams/clubs (42.1%) - community leagues or associations (34.7%) - special sport/recreation events (28.2%).
<u>University Undergrad</u>	- local sport teams/clubs (33.9%) - community leagues or associations (29.9%) - school groups (29.5%).
<u>University Grad. Program</u>	- local sport teams/clubs (35.6%) - community leagues or associations (31.3%) - school groups (30.0%). - special sport/recreation events (30.0%).

Table 3.7  
Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement Associated with Education

Type of Group	Less than High School %	High School %	Technical Vocational %	University Undergrad Program %	University Graduate Program %	Total Sample %	p.*
Community League or Association	32.3	36.4	34.7	29.9	31.3	(33.8)	N.S.
Youth Group	9.8	16.8	22.8	18.1	14.4	(17.6)	.0094
School	12.0	27.7	24.0	29.5	30.0	(25.8)	.0013
Church	33.8	25.1	27.6	26.0	25.6	(26.8)	N.S.
Cultural Group	7.5	8.1	7.7	13.0	11.9	( 9.3)	N.S.
Service Club	20.3	16.8	15.1	16.1	12.5	(16.1)	N.S.
Local Sport Team/Club	25.6	43.6	42.1	33.9	35.6	(38.7)	.0007
Recreation or Parks Board	3.8	6.6	7.1	7.9	6.3	( 6.6)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	13.5	19.6	28.2	27.2	30.0	(23.9)	.0003
Number of Volunteers	(133)	(470)	(337)	(254)	(160)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 4 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on education level.

### Income

- o For most types of volunteer groups, participation was not associated with household income.
- o Volunteer involvement with local sports teams or clubs increased with household income, and was particularly apparent for respondents reporting incomes of \$70,001 or more (50.0%). This same pattern was observed for special sport or recreation events, where respondents in the highest income category were twice as likely as those from the lowest income category to participate.
- o Church group involvement was most likely to be associated with household incomes under \$30,001/year.

The preferred groups for respondents reporting various household income levels are:

<u>Less than</u> <u>\$10,001</u>	- community leagues or associations (32.1%) - church groups (29.8%) - school groups (25.0%).
<u>\$10,001 to</u> <u>\$30,000</u>	- church groups (35.4%) - local sports teams or clubs (33.0%) - community leagues or associations (28.9%)
<u>\$30,001 to</u> <u>\$50,000</u>	- local sports teams or clubs (42.5%) - community leagues or associations (37.4%) - school groups (27.6%).
<u>\$50,001 to</u> <u>\$70,000</u>	- local sports teams or clubs (40.1%) - community leagues or associations (31.8%) - school groups (30.2%).
<u>\$70,001 or</u> <u>more</u>	- local sports teams or clubs (50.0%) - community leagues or associations (36.3%) - special sports/recreation events (34.9%).

Table 3.8

## Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement Associated with Household Income

Type of Group	Less than \$10,001 %	\$10,001 to \$30,000 %	\$30,001 to \$50,000 %	\$50,001 to \$70,000 %	\$70,001 or over %	Total Sample %	p.*
Community League or Association	32.1	28.9	37.4	31.8	36.3	(33.3)	N.S.
Youth Group	23.8	17.0	17.9	21.1	13.0	(18.0)	N.S.
School	25.0	21.4	27.6	30.2	26.0	(25.8)	N.S.
Church	29.8	35.4	23.1	23.1	17.1	(26.7)	.0000
Cultural Group	13.1	10.2	9.7	6.6	7.5	( 9.3)	N.S.
Service Club	19.0	18.0	12.5	16.5	16.4	(15.7)	N.S.
Local Sport Team/Club	19.0	33.0	42.5	40.1	50.0	(38.5)	.0000
Recreation or Parks Board	3.6	5.6	9.5	5.8	6.8	( 7.0)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	15.5	18.0	25.9	26.4	34.9	(23.9)	.0001
Number of Volunteers	( 84)	(412)	(463)	(242)	(146)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 4 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on household income level.



### 3.3.3 Location of Residence

The findings showing the association of residence variables with volunteer group participation are presented in Tables 3.9 and 3.10.

#### Urban/Rural Location

- o Overall, rural residents were more likely than urban residents to work as volunteers (see Table 2.2). There were few differences, however, in the propensity of urban and rural volunteers to work with the various types of groups (see Table 3.9).
- o Rural residents participated in volunteer work for community leagues or associations to a greater extent than did urban residents. Almost one-half (49.4%) of rural volunteers worked with community leagues or associations, compared to 29.8% of urban volunteers.
- o Volunteers with youth groups and church groups were also more likely to be rural residents than urban residents.
- o Based on the percentage of volunteer respondents participating, the preferred groups for urban and rural volunteers are:

<u>Urban</u>	- local sports teams or clubs (37.0%)
	- community leagues or associations (29.8%)
	- school groups (25.2%).
<u>Rural</u>	- community leagues or associations (49.4%)
	- local sports teams or clubs (42.6%)
	- church groups (36.6%).

#### Regional Location

Data on variations in volunteer group involvement according to regional location of residence are reported in Table 3.10.

- o Volunteering for a community league or association appears to be most prevalent in the Calgary region (outside the City of Calgary), the Stony Plain Region, and Edmonton.

Table 3.9  
Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement  
Associated with Urban/Rural Location of Residence

Type of Group	Urban %	Rural %	Total Sample %	p. *
Community League or Association	29.8	49.4	(33.0)	.0000
Youth Group	16.6	24.7	(18.0)	.0046
School	25.2	28.9	(25.8)	N.S.
Church	24.6	36.6	(26.6)	.0002
Cultural Group	9.4	7.7	( 9.1)	N.S.
Service Club	15.8	17.4	(16.1)	N.S.
Local Sport Team/Club	37.0	42.6	(38.0)	N.S.
Recreation or Parks Board	6.9	5.1	( 6.6)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	24.8	20.4	(24.1)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(1166)	(235)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on location of residence.

Table 3.10

## Variations in Volunteer Group Involvement Associated With Regional Location of Residence

Type of Group	Lethbridge Region	Calgary Region	Red Deer Region	Stony Plain Region	St. Paul Region	High Prairie Region	Calgary	Edmonton	Total Sample	p.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Community League or Association	23.3	45.0	29.2	38.4	34.5	31.3	31.9	38.3	(33.3)	.0016
Youth Group	22.9	21.1	13.9	22.6	16.4	20.4	14.8	13.1	(17.9)	N.S.
School	29.1	23.9	28.5	27.4	19.1	29.9	21.5	25.2	(25.6)	N.S.
Church	37.2	33.0	19.4	30.0	32.7	21.1	20.5	26.6	(27.1)	.0001
Cultural Group	8.5	11.0	6.9	6.3	5.5	11.6	8.1	14.4	( 9.1)	N.S.
Service Club	16.1	23.9	22.2	15.8	25.5	15.6	11.1	10.4	(16.0)	.0003
Local Sport Team/Club	42.2	45.0	40.3	38.4	48.2	44.2	29.9	30.2	(38.0)	.0006
Recreation or Parks Board	7.6	12.8	6.3	6.3	10.0	6.8	5.0	4.5	( 6.8)	N.S.
Special Sport/Rec. Event	20.2	33.0	24.3	16.3	18.2	18.4	35.2	18.5	(23.6)	.0000
Number of Volunteers	(223)	(109)	(144)	(190)	(110)	(147)	(298)	(222)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 7 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on regional location.

- o Working with a church group was particularly prevalent in the Lethbridge, Stony Plain, St. Paul, and Calgary Regions.
- o Volunteer involvement in service clubs was more likely to be reported by residents of the Red Deer, St. Paul, and Calgary Regions than by those living in other areas.
- o Working with local sports teams or clubs was most prevalent in the St. Paul, High Prairie, and Calgary Regions.
- o About one-third of the volunteers living in the City of Calgary and the Calgary Region reported volunteering for a special sport or recreation event. This proportion was much higher than for Albertans living in other regions, and most likely reflects volunteer contributions associated with the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.
- o Based on the percentages of volunteer respondents participating, the most popular groups for volunteers living in various regions are:

Lethbridge            - local sports teams or clubs (42.2%)  
Region                - church groups (37.2%)  
                              - school groups (29.1%).

Calgary                - local sports teams or clubs (45.0%)  
Region                - community leagues or associations (45.0%)  
                              - church groups (33.0%).  
                              - special sport/recreation events (33.0%).

Red Deer              - local sports teams or clubs (40.3%)  
Region                - community leagues or associations (29.2%)  
                              - school groups (28.5%).

Stony Plain           - local sports teams or clubs (38.4%)  
Region                - community leagues or associations (38.4%)  
                              - church groups (30.0%).

St. Paul                - local sports teams or clubs (48.2%)  
Region                - community leagues or associations (34.5%)  
                              - church groups (32.7%).



<u>High Prairie Region</u>	- local sports teams or clubs (44.2%)
	- community leagues or associations (31.3%)
	- school groups (29.9%).
<u>City of Calgary</u>	- special sports/recreation events (35.2%)
	- community leagues or associations (31.9%)
	- local sports teams or clubs (29.9%).
<u>City of Edmonton</u>	- community leagues or associations (38.3%)
	- local sports teams or clubs (30.2%)
	- church groups (26.6%).

### 3.3.4 Summary Profiles

In the previous sections, the characteristics of volunteers most likely to work with various volunteer groups were identified. These characteristics are summarized in Table 3.11 to provide the most likely volunteer profiles for each group. It should be remembered, however, that volunteers for these organizations come from all socio-demographic groups.

- o Volunteers most likely to work with the various types of organizations have quite distinctive characteristics. The most similar profiles appear to be those for community leagues or associations, youth groups, and school groups, reflecting the presence of children in the household.
- o The number of statistically significant associations in the analyses suggests that working with various types of volunteer groups may vary more with lifecycle characteristics than socio-economic and residence variables.
- o Some of the observed patterns may reflect linkages among socio-demographic variables. For example, working with church groups was most likely to be associated with adults 65 years of age or older, and with households reporting income levels under \$30,001/year. The income pattern may reflect, in part, lower income levels for retirement-age volunteers. Multivariate analyses, assessing the interrelationships of volunteer group involvement with combinations of factors such as age and income were beyond the scope of this study.

Table 3.11  
Summary Profiles for Volunteer Groups

Type of Group	Most Likely Volunteer Characteristics
Community Leagues or Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Between 35 and 44 years of age</li> <li>-From households consisting of a couple with children; school-age children present</li> <li>-Rural residents</li> <li>-Residents of the Calgary Region, Stony Plain Region, and Edmonton</li> </ul>
Youth Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-From single parent family households; or those consisting of a couple with children; children in household</li> <li>-Technical-vocational education</li> <li>-Rural residents</li> </ul>
School Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-35 to 44 year age range; under 25 years</li> <li>-Females</li> <li>-Couples with children; single parent families; children in household</li> </ul>
Church Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Adults 65 years or older</li> <li>-Females</li> <li>-Income levels under \$30,001/year</li> <li>-Rural residents</li> <li>-Residents of Lethbridge, Calgary, Stony Plain, and St. Paul Regions</li> </ul>
Cultural Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-45 years of age or older</li> <li>-Females</li> <li>-Households with no children</li> </ul>

Table 3.11  
Summary Profiles for Volunteer Groups  
(continued)

Type of Group	Most Likely Volunteer Characteristics
Service Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-45 years of age or older</li> <li>-Males</li> <li>-Households with no children</li> <li>-Residents of Red Deer, St. Paul, and Calgary Regions</li> </ul>
Local Sport Teams/Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Under 45 years of age</li> <li>-Males</li> <li>-From households consisting of a couple with children; children in household</li> <li>-High school or technical-vocational education</li> <li>-Household incomes of \$30,001 or greater</li> <li>-Residents of St. Paul, High Prairie and Calgary Regions</li> </ul>
Recreation or Parks Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No distinguishing socio-demographic characteristics.</li> </ul>
Special Sport or Recreation Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Under 45 years of age</li> <li>-Males</li> <li>-Post secondary levels of education</li> <li>-Income levels over \$30,000/year</li> <li>-In 1987/88, residents of Calgary Region and City of Calgary</li> </ul>

In addition to describing the types of volunteers most likely to work with different types of groups, the most popular volunteer organizations for each of the socio-demographic categories were identified.

- o Consistently, local sports teams/clubs and community leagues or associations were among the three preferred organizations for the majority of socio-demographic groups.
- o A few exceptions to this pattern were observed. Volunteering for local sports teams or clubs was not as popular for those over 65 years of age, females, and those with household incomes under \$10,001/year. Volunteering for a community league or association was not as popular with those under 25 years of age, single persons and those from single parent families.

#### 3.4 Amount of Time Contributed to Volunteer Groups

One analysis of interest was the amount of time spent volunteering for each of the groups. This analysis was significantly limited for the 1988 General Recreation Survey data, however. For volunteers involved with more than one group, it was not possible to determine how the amount of volunteer time was divided among the specified organizations. It was therefore necessary to identify respondents who had volunteered exclusively for one type of group, and to examine the amount of volunteer time reported by these respondents. This analysis was therefore based on smaller sub-samples of respondents.

It was possible, however, to examine whether the time distribution of volunteers working exclusively with a group was significantly different from the time distribution of volunteers working with the group, but not exclusively. No significant differences between the time distributions of exclusive and non-exclusive volunteers were found for any of the types of organizations. Therefore, the time distribution of exclusive volunteers adequately reflects the time distribution of all volunteers working with a particular organization.



The volunteer time distribution for each type of organization is summarized in Table 3.12.

- o For most volunteer groups, the majority of volunteers worked between one and five hours per week.
- o Volunteers working with service clubs and recreation or parks boards reported a relatively high time commitment. More than one-third of these volunteers contributed more than ten hours a week.
- o About one-quarter of volunteers working with cultural groups (29.4%), church groups (27.4%), and local sports teams or clubs (23.5%) contributed more than ten hours a week. A similar pattern was shown for volunteers working with special sport or recreation events (27.6%).

Table 3.12  
Amount of Volunteer Time Associated with Each  
Volunteer Group

Type of Group	1-5 Hours %	6-10 Hours %	11-15 Hours %	More than 15 Hours %	Number
Community League or Association	66.7	13.9	2.8	16.7	72
Youth Group	62.2	24.3	5.4	8.1	37
School	69.8	11.3	9.4	9.4	53
Church	64.3	8.3	6.0	21.4	84
Cultural Group	55.9	14.7	11.8	17.6	34
Service Club	50.0	14.8	5.6	29.6	54
Local Sport Team/Club	60.9	15.6	9.4	14.1	128
Recreation or Parks Board	50.0	10.0	10.0	30.0	10
Special Sport/Rec. Event	55.2	17.2	8.6	19.0	58

#### 4.0 STUDY RESULTS: TYPES OF VOLUNTEER JOBS

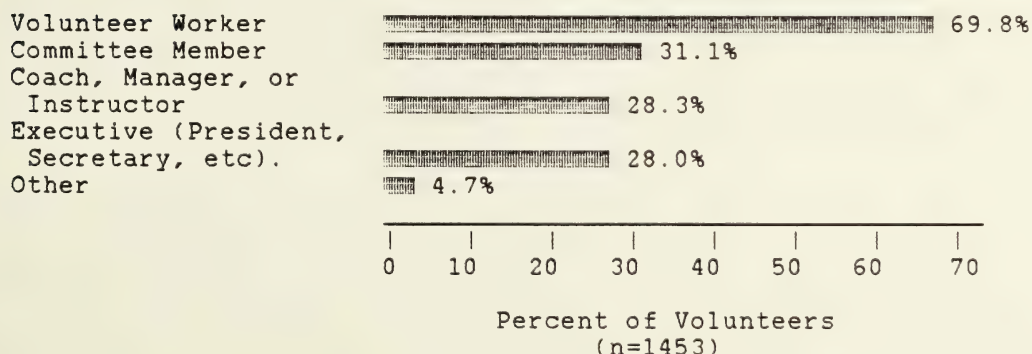
##### 4.1 Participation in Various Types of Volunteer Jobs

Volunteer respondents (n=1453) were asked to indicate the types of volunteer jobs they had performed during the previous year (Question 4c). Figure 4.1 summarizes the proportions of volunteers working at the various jobs.

- o The majority of the volunteers (69.8%) had participated as a general volunteer worker.
- o Similar proportions (about 30%) had worked at each of the remaining types of jobs (i.e., committee member, coach/manager/instructor, or executive).

Figure 4.1

Proportion of Volunteers Working at Each Type of Job



Note: Percentages total to more than 100% since respondents could identify more than one type of volunteer job.

#### 4.2 Characteristics of Volunteers Working at Different Types of Jobs

This section examines whether involvement in the various volunteer jobs is associated with any socio-demographic characteristics. For each type of job, volunteers were compared on lifecycle, socio-economic, and residence variables through a series of cross-tabulation analyses.

Chi-square comparisons were undertaken to determine whether participation in each volunteer job is dependent upon a variable such as age. It was then possible to identify the types of people most likely and least likely to volunteer for each type of job. For example, Table 4.1 indicates that working as an executive is dependent upon age ( $p=.0000$ ). The propensity to work at this type of job peaks between 35 and 64 years of age, with about one-third of the volunteers in this age group working as an executive. Volunteers under 25 years were least likely to volunteer for executive positions (10.4%).

With these data, it was also possible to examine the relative popularity of each volunteer job for each socio-demographic category. For example, in Table 4.1, the volunteer job patterns of young adults under 25 years can be determined. The majority of volunteers in this age category participated as a general volunteer worker (61.5%), while 44.8% worked as a coach, manager, or instructor. Smaller proportions had volunteered as a committee member (14.6%) or an executive (10.4%). To avoid redundancy, these findings are not detailed in the report but are readily determined through comparisons of proportions within columns for each table.

The findings pertaining to each of the lifecycle, socio-economic and residence variables are presented below. The characteristics of volunteers most likely to work at each of the volunteer jobs are summarized in Table 4.10 following the discussion.



#### 4.2.1 Lifecycle Variables

The cross-tabulation analyses for type of volunteer job and the lifecycle variables are summarized in Tables 4.1 through 4.5. The following observations were made for these data:

##### Age

- o Working as a general volunteer did not depend on age, and was the most frequently mentioned volunteer job for all age groups (see Table 4.1).
- o Working in an executive position peaked between the ages of 35 and 64 years. Volunteering for this type of job was least likely for those under 25 years of age.
- o Committee members were more likely to be 35 years of age or older than from younger age categories.
- o Volunteering as a coach, manager, or instructor declined markedly with age. Approximately forty-five percent of young adults under the age of 25 worked at this type of volunteer job; this declined to 6.6% of volunteers 65 years of age or older.

##### Gender

- o Similar proportions of males and females worked as executive and committee members (see Table 4.2).
- o Males were twice as likely as females to volunteer as coaches, managers, and instructors (38.8% of males compared to 19.4% of females).
- o Females (75.4%) were more likely than males (62.7%) to participate as general volunteer workers.

Table 4.1  
Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated with Age

Type of Job	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 years or older	Total Sample	p.*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Executive	10.4	24.3	33.5	31.8	26.5	(28.0)	.0000
Committee Member	14.6	26.4	34.0	36.2	33.1	(30.9)	.0002
Coach, Manager, Instructor	44.8	35.1	31.1	22.6	6.6	(28.3)	.0000
Volunteer Worker	61.5	66.6	73.6	70.3	69.3	(69.4)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(96)	(416)	(409)	(340)	(166)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 4 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on age.

Table 4.2

## Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated with Gender

Type of Job	Males	Females	Total Sample	p.*
	%	%	%	
Executive	30.0	26.8	(28.3)	N.S.
Committee Member	32.0	30.1	(30.9)	N.S.
Coach, Manager, Instructor	38.8	19.4	(28.3)	.0000
Volunteer Worker	62.7	75.4	(69.6)	.0000
Number of Volunteers	(654)	(775)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on gender.

### Household Type

- o Committee members or general volunteers could not be distinguished in terms of their household type (see Table 4.3).
- o Executive volunteers were most likely to live in households consisting of couples with children (32.1%). The representation from other household types was fairly consistent, with the exception of two or more unrelated adults (10.6%).
- o Coaches, managers, and instructors were most likely to come from households consisting of two or more unrelated adults (38.3%), and couples with children (32.8%).

### Presence of Pre-School Age Children

- o Overall, the presence or absence of pre-school age children in the household appeared to have little bearing on the type of volunteer job (see Table 4.4).
- o Respondents with young children present in the household were more likely to volunteer as a coach, manager, or instructor (34.4%) than those with no children in this age group (26.4%).

### Presence of Children Six to Seventeen Years

- o Respondents with school-age children were more likely than those without children to work as coaches, managers, or instructors and as general volunteer workers (see Table 4.5).
- o Working as a committee member or an executive was not related to the presence or absence of school-age children in the household.



Table 4.3

Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated with Household Type

Type of Group	Couples-no Children	Couples + Children	Single Person	Single Parent Family	Two or More Unrelated Adults	Two or More Related Adults	Total Sample	p.*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Executive	23.4	32.1	24.5	26.2	10.6	25.9	(28.1)	.0032
Committee Member	31.8	31.3	28.5	21.4	31.9	33.3	(31.0)	N.S.
Coach, Manager, Instructor	21.8	32.8	19.9	21.4	38.3	23.5	(28.3)	.0002
Volunteer Worker	66.2	71.8	63.6	71.4	66.0	72.8	(69.5)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(308)	(786)	(151)	(42)	(47)	(81)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 5 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. &lt;.01: involvement does not depend on household type.

Table 4.4

Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated with Presence of  
Pre-School Age Children

Type of Job	Children Not Present %	Children Present %	Total Sample %	p.*
Executive	26.7	32.8	28.0	N.S.
Committee Member	30.8	31.5	31.0	N.S.
Coach, Manager, Instructor	26.4	34.4	28.1	.0065
Volunteer Worker	70.2	67.8	69.6	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(1136)	(317)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on  
presence of children in the household.

Table 4.5

Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated With  
Presence of Children 6 To 17 Years

Type of Job	Children Not Present %	Children Present %	Total Sample %	p.
Executive	26.6	30.0	(28.0)	N.S.
Committee Member	31.7	29.9	(31.0)	N.S.
Coach, Manager, Instructor	23.8	34.4	(28.1)	.0000
Volunteer Worker	66.7	73.8	(69.5)	.0047
Number of Volunteers	(857)	(596)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on  
presence of children in the household.

#### 4.2.2 Socio-Economic Variables

The association of volunteer job with education and household income is examined in Tables 4.6 and 4.7.

##### Education

- o Committee members and general volunteers could not be distinguished on any educational characteristics.
- o The propensity to work as an executive tended to increase with education, and was most likely to be associated with post-secondary education levels.
- o Coaches, managers, and instructors were most likely to have a high school or post-secondary education.

##### Income

- o Working as a coach, manager, or instructor was more likely to be associated with middle and upper income levels than with household incomes under \$30,000/year.
- o Volunteering as an executive and committee member showed a similar pattern, and was particularly prevalent for those with household incomes of \$70,000 or over/year.

#### 4.2.3 Residence Variables

The analyses examining the association of residence variables with type of volunteer job are summarized in Tables 4.8 and 4.9.

##### Rural/Urban Location

- o Overall, working at the various volunteer jobs was not consistently associated with rural or urban location of residence.
- o The only observation was that rural respondents (38.3%) were more likely than urban respondents to volunteer as committee members (29.1%).

Table 4.6

## Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated with Education

Type of Job	Less than High School	High School	Technical Vocational	University Undergrad Program	University Graduate Program	Total Sample	p.†
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Executive	17.3	25.7	31.2	30.7	35.0	(28.3)	.0045
Committee Member	30.1	30.2	27.6	34.3	35.0	(30.9)	N.S.
Coach, Manager, Instructor	10.5	27.7	30.9	33.1	31.3	(28.3)	.0000
Volunteer Worker	67.7	72.1	70.3	67.7	63.8	(69.4)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(133)	(470)	(337)	(254)	(160)		

† Based on Chi-square test with 4 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. &lt;.01: involvement does not depend on education.

Table 4.7

## Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated with Household Income

Type of Job	Less than \$10,001	\$10,001 to \$30,000	\$30,001 to \$50,000	\$50,001 to \$70,000	\$70,001 or over	Total Sample	p. †
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Executive	20.2	24.3	30.0	30.6	36.3	(28.4)	††
Committee Member	28.6	27.4	33.3	30.2	42.5	(31.6)	††
Coach, Manager, Instructor	15.5	22.8	32.6	31.4	34.9	(28.6)	.0003
Volunteer Worker	72.6	70.1	68.9	71.5	63.7	(69.4)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(84)	(412)	(463)	(242)	(146)		

† Based on Chi-square test with 4 df.

†† Significant at p.&lt;.05.

N.S. Not significant at p. &lt;.01: involvement does not depend on income.



Table 4.8

Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated with Urban/Rural  
Location of Residence

Type of Job	Urban %	Rural %	Total Sample %	p. *
Executive	27.5	31.9	(28.3)	N.S.
Committee Member	29.1	38.3	(30.6)	.0065
Coach, Manager, Instructor	28.6	27.7	(28.4)	N.S.
Volunteer Worker	68.8	73.2	(69.5)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(1166)	(235)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 1 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on location of residence.

### Regional Location

- o Working at various types of volunteer jobs did not vary significantly according to regional location of residence (see Table 4.9).

#### 4.2.4 Summary Profiles

In the previous sections, the characteristics of volunteers most likely to work at various types of volunteer jobs were identified. These characteristics are summarized in Table 4.10 to provide the most likely volunteer profiles for each type of job. It should be noted, however, that volunteers for these jobs come from all socio-demographic groups.

- o Volunteers most likely to work at the various types of jobs can be distinguished on a number of characteristics.
- o The number of statistically significant associations in the analyses suggests that the propensity to work at various volunteers jobs depends more on lifecycle and socio-economic characteristics than residence variables.
- o The most prevalent type of job for the total sample of volunteers was that of volunteer worker, and this was consistent for all socio-demographic groups.

#### 4.3 Volunteer Jobs Associated with Various Volunteer Groups

It was of interest to determine how the types of volunteer jobs were associated with the various volunteer groups. Due to the multiple response nature of both survey questions compiling this information (Questions 4b and 4c), this analysis encountered significant limitations. For respondents participating in more than one job or more than one group, it was not possible to determine which jobs were associated with which volunteer groups.

It was therefore necessary to identify respondents who volunteered exclusively for one type of group, and to examine how their volunteer work was distributed among the various types of jobs. Chi-square tests determined that the profiles of volunteers working exclusively with one group did not accurately reflect the profiles of all volunteers working with that group, when proportions were used as the measure.

Table 4.9  
Variations in Type of Volunteer Job Associated With  
Regional Location of Residence

Type of Job	Lethbridge Region	Calgary Region	Red Deer Region	Stony Plain Region	St. Paul Region	High Prairie Region	Calgary	Edmonton	Total Sample	p.*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Executive	26.9	33.0	30.6	30.5	26.4	28.6	24.2	27.9	(27.9)	N.S.
Committee Member	27.4	44.0	29.2	31.6	31.8	36.1	29.2	26.6	(30.8)	N.S.
Coach, Manager, Instructor	29.6	30.3	34.7	27.9	23.6	29.9	26.8	24.8	(28.2)	N.S.
Volunteer Worker	77.1	77.1	63.2	68.9	67.3	71.4	68.8	64.0	(69.6)	N.S.
Number of Volunteers	(223)	(109)	(144)	(190)	(110)	(147)	(298)	(222)		

\* Based on Chi-square test with 7 df.

N.S. Not significant at p. <.01: involvement does not depend on regional location of residence.

Table 4.10  
Summary Profiles for Volunteer Jobs

Type of Job	Most Likely Volunteer Characteristics
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-35 to 64 years of age</li> <li>-from households consisting of a couple with children</li> <li>-post-secondary education levels</li> <li>-household incomes over \$30,000/per year, and particularly over \$70,000/year</li> </ul>
Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-35 years or older</li> <li>-household incomes over \$70,000/per year</li> <li>-rural residents</li> </ul>
Coach, Manager, Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-35 years or younger; participation decreases with age</li> <li>-males</li> <li>-from households consisting of a couple with children; two or more unrelated adults</li> <li>-children present in household</li> <li>-high school education or higher</li> <li>-household incomes over \$30,000/per year</li> </ul>
Volunteer Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-females</li> <li>-school-age children present in household</li> </ul>



The job participation rates of exclusive volunteers tended to underestimate the participation rates of volunteers working with an organization, but not exclusively. It was possible, however, to use rankings (based on participation percentages) to show the relative importance of each job within each type of volunteer group, as these rankings were the same for both exclusive and non-exclusive volunteers. The job rankings for each type of organization are summarized in Table 4.11.

The following observations were made:

- o The most prevalent type of job for all types of volunteer groups was that of general volunteer worker (ranked as 1).
- o Working in an executive position was particularly prevalent for volunteers involved with service clubs.
- o Working as a committee member was particularly prevalent among volunteers participating with community leagues or associations, church groups, cultural groups, recreation or parks boards, and special recreation or sports events.
- o Working as a coach, manager, or instructor ranked highest for youth groups, school groups, local sports teams or clubs, and recreation or park boards.

#### 4.4 Amount of Time Contributed to Volunteer Jobs

This analysis was based on the sub-group of respondents who volunteered exclusively for one type of job.

Chi-square tests determined that, for the most part, the volunteer time distributions of exclusive volunteers adequately reflected the volunteer time distributions of all volunteers working at a particular type of job. The amount of time contributed to each type of volunteer job is depicted in Table 4.12.

- o For all types of jobs, the majority of volunteers worked between one and five hours per week.

Table 4.11

Types of Volunteer Jobs Associated with Various  
Volunteer Groups: Ranking of Proportions of Volunteers

Type of Group	Executive Rank	Committee Member Rank	Coach Rank	Volunteer Worker Rank
Community League or Association	3	2	4	1
Youth Group *	3	3	2	1
School	4	3	2	1
Church *	3	2	3	1
Cultural Group	3	2	4	1
Service Club	2	3	4	1
Local Sport Team/Club	3	4	2	1
Recreation or Parks Board	3	2	2	1
Special Sport/Rec. Event	4	2	3	1

\* Includes tied ranks.

- o Close to one-third of the volunteers working as committee members or in executive positions contributed more than 10 hours a week to their volunteer group.
- o About one-quarter of coaches, managers, and instructors worked more than 10 hours a week.

Table 4.12

Distribution of Volunteer Time Associated with Each  
Volunteer Job

Type of Job	1 to 5 Hours %	6 to 10 Hours %	11 to 15 Hours %	More than 15 Hours %	No.
Executive	54.9	12.2	7.3	25.6	82
Committee Member	56.2	13.7	8.2	21.9	73
Coach, Manager, Instructor	62.1	16.8	6.2	14.9	161
Volunteer Worker*	65.9	14.8	3.4	15.8	499

\* Note: General volunteer workers who reported more than one type of job tended to work longer hours than these exclusive volunteers.

## 5.0 STUDY RESULTS: VOLUNTEER TRAINING

### 5.1 Volunteer Training Received

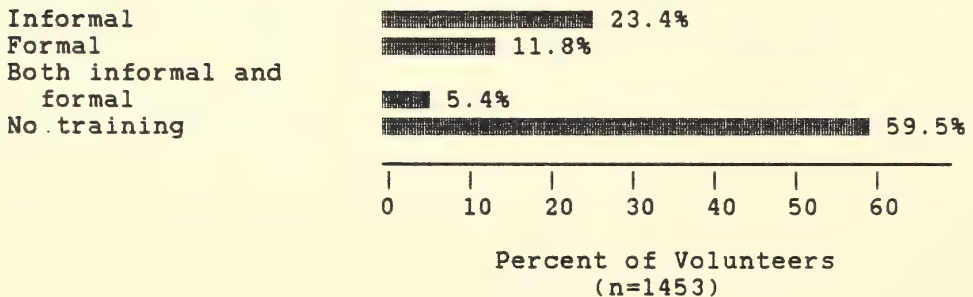
Information was obtained in the survey about the training which respondents received for their volunteer jobs (Questions 4d and 4e). Forty percent of the volunteer respondents (n=582) had received some form of training, while 59.5% (n=871) had received no training for their volunteer work.

The proportions of volunteer respondents receiving various types of training are summarized in Figure 5.1.

- o The most prevalent type of training received was informal (on-the-job) training, which was reported by about one-quarter (23.4%) of the volunteers. Smaller proportions reported that they had participated in formal training or courses (11.8%) or both formal and informal training (5.4%).

Figure 5.1

#### Types of Volunteer Training



## 5.2 Volunteer Training and Type of Volunteer Group

For this analysis, it was necessary to identify respondents who volunteered exclusively for one type of group, and to determine if these respondents had received training for their volunteer work. Further analyses were done to determine the types of training received by these volunteers.

Table 5.1 summarizes the proportions of the (exclusive) volunteers working for each type of group who received or did not receive training for their volunteer work.

- o Training appears to be most prevalent for volunteer workers involved with cultural groups, special sport and recreation events, and school groups. Approximately one-half of the volunteers with these groups received training.
- o The lowest incidence of volunteer training is associated with community leagues or associations (28.0% of workers), local sports teams or clubs (35.7%), and service clubs (35.9%).

The proportions of volunteers receiving different types of training are depicted in Table 5.2. It should be cautioned that the numbers of respondents on which these data are based are very small. These data provide a general indication of the training patterns for community volunteers.

- o Formal volunteer training appeared to be most prevalent for recreation and parks boards, local sports teams or clubs, service clubs, and youth groups.
- o For the remaining types of groups, the majority of volunteers received informal training.



Table 5.1  
 Volunteer Training Associated with Various  
 Volunteer Groups

Type of Group	Training	No Training	Number
	%	%	
Community League or Association	28.0	72.0	82
Youth Group	41.2	58.8	51
School	48.4	51.6	62
Church	44.6	55.4	101
Cultural Group	50.0	50.0	44
Service Club	35.9	64.1	64
Local Sport Team/Club	35.7	64.3	140
Recreation or Parks Board	42.9	57.1	21
Special Sport/Rec. Event	49.3	50.7	71

Table 5.2

Types of Volunteer Training Associated with Various  
Volunteer Groups \*

Type of Group	Informal %	Formal %	Both %	Number
Community League or Association	70.8	20.8	8.3	24
Youth Group	52.2	30.4	17.4	23
School	74.2	19.4	6.5	31
Church	73.5	18.4	8.2	49
Cultural Group	78.3	17.4	4.3	23
Service Club	50.0	33.3	16.7	24
Local Sport Team/Club	51.0	35.3	13.7	51
Recreation or Parks Board	50.0	40.0	10.0	10
Special Sport/Rec. Event	63.9	22.2	13.9	36

\* Based on percentage of exclusive volunteers receiving training.

### 5.3 Volunteer Training and Type of Volunteer Job

Further analyses were undertaken to determine the percentages of volunteers receiving training for the various types of volunteer jobs.

The percentages of (exclusive) volunteers receiving training or no training for each type of volunteer job are summarized in Table 5.3.

- o For all types of jobs, the majority of volunteers received no training.
- o The types of volunteer workers most likely to receive training were coaches, managers, and instructors (43.6%).
- o The types of volunteers least likely to receive training were those holding executive positions (19.6%).

Table 5.4 shows the types of training received by volunteers working at various jobs.

- o Informal training was most prevalent for all types of volunteer jobs, with the exception of coach, manager, or instructor.
- o Over one-half of coaches, managers, and instructors received formal training or a combination of formal and informal training.
- o Although a relatively small proportion of executives received training, about one-third (31.6%) of these received formal training.

Table 5.3  
Volunteer Training Associated with Various  
Volunteer Jobs

Type of Job	Training %	No Training %	Number
Executive	19.6	80.4	92
Committee Member	25.3	74.7	87
Coach, Manager, Instructor	43.6	56.4	172
Volunteer Worker	32.7	67.3	529

Table 5.4  
Types of Volunteer Training Associated with Various  
Volunteer Jobs

Type of Job	Informal %	Formal %	Both %	Number
Executive	63.2	31.6	5.3	19
Committee Member	78.3	17.4	4.3	23
Coach, Manager, Instructor	46.1	39.5	14.5	76
Volunteer Worker	74.3	18.4	7.3	179

## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

### 6.1 Introduction

The information on volunteerism summarized in this report is based on data from the 1988 General Recreation Survey, conducted by Alberta Recreation and Parks. Where possible, findings were also compared with selected volunteerism results from the 1981 and 1984 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation.

This report has discussed the following topics:

- o Socio-demographic characteristics of volunteers and non-volunteers;
- o Participation in various types of volunteer groups;
- o Characteristics of volunteers working with different types of volunteer groups;
- o Participation in various types of volunteer jobs;
- o Characteristics of volunteers working at different types of volunteer jobs;
- o Training received in different types of organizations and volunteer jobs; and,
- o Amount of time contributed to volunteer work, to various types of volunteer organizations, and to various volunteer jobs.

The main findings from this study are summarized and discussed below. The participation rates obtained in the study have also been projected to estimate the numbers of Albertans participating as volunteers, the numbers associated with various types of groups and jobs, and total numbers of hours worked by Alberta volunteers. This information is summarized in Appendix D.



## 6.2 Volunteer/Non-Volunteer Profiles

### Key Findings

1. Just over one-third of the respondents (36.6%, n=1453) reported they had done volunteer work in the recreation sector. The remaining 63.4% (n=2521) had not worked as a recreation volunteer during the previous year.
2. The types of respondents who were most likely to be volunteers in the recreation, sports, and parks sector had the following characteristics: between the ages of 35 and 44 years; living in households with school-age children; having higher educational levels; household incomes in the mid and upper levels; and living outside of the large urban centres. In 1987/88, respondents living in the Calgary area, St. Paul, High Prairie, and Lethbridge Regions also showed a relatively high rate of volunteering.
3. The types of respondents who were most likely to be non-volunteers in the recreation, sports, and parks sector had the following characteristics: under the age of 25 or over 65 years of age; living in households with no school-age children or in single parent family households; having less than a high school education and household incomes under \$30,000/year; and, living in urban locations, particularly Calgary and Edmonton.
4. Lifecycle and socio-economic factors appear to be quite important in distinguishing volunteers and non-volunteers.

### Discussion

The 1988 General Recreation Survey requested information about volunteer participation in the recreation, sports, or parks sector rather than obtaining information about the general volunteer population, as in previous surveys. Due to this difference in defining the volunteer, it was not possible to develop any conclusions regarding trends in volunteer participation from 1984 to 1988.

However, a significant finding of the study was that profiles developed for recreation, sports, and parks volunteers/non-volunteers were very similar to the profiles of general volunteer/non-volunteer populations developed in the earlier studies.

Programs to recruit volunteers may need to consider two general directions. On the one hand, the volunteer profiles developed in this study provide an indication of the segments of the population most likely to be volunteers. Recruiting may be most successful if directed to these segments. On the other hand, the profiles of non-volunteers suggest a source of volunteers which is currently untapped.

The findings indicate that the typical volunteer (as described in the profile summary) also tends to work for a greater number of volunteer groups. With relatively high rates of volunteer involvement, this group may be working at their volunteer capacity in terms of time availability, necessitating recruitment from other sources.

The study has identified the types of people least likely to volunteer. In order to encourage their participation, it is important to determine the reasons or obstacles which deter these people from working as volunteers.

One approach in recruiting volunteers is to identify and promote qualities of the volunteer experience which might be most attractive to specific market segments of potential volunteers. For example, information from other studies may identify what people seek in their volunteer experiences at different life stages. Data from the 1988 General Recreation Survey indicate that contributing to the community increases in importance with age as a motivation for participating in leisure activities. This type of information could be used to promote volunteer participation to the older segment of non-volunteers. Social contacts are particularly important for young adults and older adults, and this may also be an important motivation for volunteer participation for these segments.

According to the present volunteer/non-volunteer profiles, volunteering tends to decline from the mid-adult to senior years. As the population ages, it will be increasingly important to develop effective approaches for recruiting from this age group.

### 6.3 Types of Volunteer Groups and Volunteer Jobs

#### Key Findings

1. Local sports teams or clubs and community leagues or associations attracted the highest proportions of volunteers.
2. The majority of volunteers worked with more than one organization. On average, each volunteer respondent participated in two groups.
3. Volunteers working with the various types of organizations had quite distinctive socio-demographic characteristics. Lifecycle variables appear to be particularly important in distinguishing volunteers working with different types of groups.
4. The majority of volunteers (69.8%) had participated as a general volunteer worker. About 30% had worked as a committee member, coach/manager/instructor, or executive.
5. Volunteers working at each of these volunteer jobs could be distinguished on a number of socio-demographic characteristics.

#### Discussion

With data from the 1988 General Recreation Survey, it was possible to develop profiles of volunteers most likely to work with various types of groups or at various volunteer jobs. This is important information for recruiting volunteers since these profiles define market segments which will most likely agree to contribute their volunteer time to a specific type of organization or job. Although volunteers do come from all segments of the population, it would be most cost-effective to direct promotional programs toward specific market segments such as those identified in this study.

The information presented in Section 3.0 also indicates how volunteer group preferences vary for each socio-demographic segment. For example, preferences vary by age and gender. This provides a useful source of information for volunteer or leisure counselling which is oriented to informing and assisting individuals to find appropriate and satisfying volunteer/leisure opportunities. This profile information may assist in matching potential volunteers to rewarding volunteer experiences.



These profiles also identify the types of volunteers which are not currently being recruited by various types of groups. It may be possible to develop a wider volunteer base by developing appropriate volunteer programs for non-volunteer segments. For example, community leagues and associations currently have a relatively low proportion of single and young adult volunteers and rely most heavily on family households as a source of volunteers. It may be possible for community leagues or associations to increase their volunteer base by developing attractive volunteer programs for young adult and single members of their community.

#### 6.4 Volunteer Training

##### Key Findings

1. Forty percent of the volunteer respondents had received some form of training, while sixty percent had received no training for their volunteer work. The most prevalent type of training was informal (on-the-job) training, which was reported by about one-quarter of the volunteers. A smaller proportion (11.8%) had participated in formal training or courses.
2. Training appears to be most prevalent for volunteer workers involved with cultural groups, special sport and recreation events, and school groups. Approximately one-half of the volunteers with these groups received training.
3. Coaches, managers, and instructors were more likely than executives, committee members, or general workers to receive training.

##### Discussion

Training is an important aspect of the self-esteem, competence, productivity, and commitment of volunteers. The information on training obtained in the study indicates that the majority of volunteers had received no formal training and about one-quarter of volunteers had received informal on-the-job training.

The study identified the types of organizations which are most likely to provide volunteer training, either on an informal or formal basis. These types of organizations, such as cultural and school groups, and special events functions, could provide models for volunteer training programs.

The data also help to identify which types of groups may not currently be reached by training programs offered by government agencies such as Alberta Recreation and Parks and Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism.

## 6.5 Volunteer Time

### Key Findings

1. Most respondents (57%) contributed, on average, between one and five hours a week. Approximately one-quarter of the volunteers worked more than 10 hours a week.
2. Volunteers contributing various amounts of time could not be distinguished on any characteristics, except for age. The amount of volunteer time contributed tends to increase with age.
3. In both the 1984 and 1988 survey data analysis, it was concluded that, for the most part, volunteers with varying levels of time involvement could not be distinguished from the general volunteer profile.
4. Volunteers working with service clubs and recreation or parks boards reported a relatively high time commitment. More than one-third of these volunteers contributed over ten hours a week.
5. Close to one-third of the volunteers working as committee members or in executive positions contributed more than 10 hours a week to their volunteer group. About one-quarter of coaches, managers, and instructors worked more than 10 hours a week.

### Discussion

The time contribution of volunteers is an essential component of the operation of most non-profit organizations. Many organizations record the number of man-days contributed by volunteers as documentation of the essential nature of this service. The information summarized in Appendix D indicates, on the basis of information obtained in the study, that about 4 million hours of volunteer work per year are contributed to organizations in Alberta.



In the study, relatively high levels of time commitment have been shown for volunteers working with certain types of volunteer organizations and at certain types of volunteer jobs. Many organizations rely on a core group of volunteers who work many hours. If there is an inadequate volunteer base upon which to draw, organizations may find they lose volunteers after a one or two year period due to overwork and other time commitments. It is important for volunteer organizations to monitor the work responsibilities of their volunteers, and to ensure a sufficient volunteer base to distribute the workload.

The potential volunteer time contributions of senior adults is an important consideration for volunteer organizations. The study has shown that the amount of time contributed as a volunteer increases with age. Although volunteer participation levels are currently relatively low for this senior age category, recruitment of volunteers from this age group will likely provide incremental benefits in terms of total amount of volunteer time contributed.

**APPENDIX A:**  
**1988 GENERAL RECREATION SURVEY**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

## WHO SHOULD ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS?

Last time we did this survey almost all the responses were from men. This time to avoid that problem, we would like the ADULT who will NEXT HAVE A BIRTHDAY to complete the survey. Please give the letter and survey to that person.

## ABOUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD

1. Please write in the NUMBER OF PEOPLE from your household who took part in each of the following activities during the PAST 12 MONTHS and whether YOU personally took part.

	Number of People (including yourself)	Did you personally take part (please check those that apply.)
Walking for Pleasure		
Driving for Pleasure		
Picnicking (within a city)		
Picnicking (in the countryside)		
Swimming (in pools)		
Swimming (in lakes, rivers, ponds, etc.)		
Judo/Karate		
Weight Lifting/Body Building and Shaping		
Aerobics/Fitness/Jazzercise		
Jogging/Running		
Track and Field		
Gymnastics		
Table Tennis		
Badminton		
Racquetball		
Squash		
Tennis		
Ice Skating (not hockey)		
Rollerskating		
Skateboarding		
Bicycling		
BMX Racing		
Curling		
Ice Hockey		
Ringette		
Basketball		
Volleyball		
Softball/Baseball		
Football		
Rugby		

Please answer the following questions about the way you spend your leisure time. Your answers will help us learn more about the leisure or recreational activities of Albertans.

2. (a) Please LIST your 3 favorite leisure or recreational activities and show how many times you participated in EACH activity during the PAST 12 MONTHS.

ACTIVITIES

NUMBER OF TIMES YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

1 to 10 times 11 to 30 times 31 to 50 times 51 or more times

Favorite \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Favorite \_\_\_\_\_

3rd Favorite \_\_\_\_\_

2. (b) People have many reasons for taking part in leisure activities. Based on your favorite leisure activity, how IMPORTANT are EACH of the following reasons to you? (Please circle ONE number for EACH.)

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
To compete with others	1	2	3 4
Because I am good at it	1	2	3 4
To show others I can do it	1	2	3 4
To improve my skills or knowledge	1	2	3 4
To learn new skills and abilities	1	2	3 4
For a challenge	1	2	3 4
For excitement	1	2	3 4
To keep busy	1	2	3 4
To help my community	1	2	3 4
To be creative	1	2	3 4
For physical health or exercise	1	2	3 4
To be with my family	1	2	3 4
To do things with my friends	1	2	3 4
To meet new people	1	2	3 4
To relax	1	2	3 4
For pleasure	1	2	3 4
To do something different from work	1	2	3 4
To enjoy nature	1	2	3 4
To be alone	1	2	3 4
To be away from my family	1	2	3 4

Number of People (including yourself)	Did you personally take part (please check those that apply)	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soccer
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bowling/Lawn Bowling
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golf (other than driving range or mini-golf)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobogganing/Sledding
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross-Country Skiing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Downhill Skiing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canoeing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sailing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	River Rafting
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sailboarding/Windsurfing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Motor Boating
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Skiing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Backpacking
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overnight Camping
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mountain Climbing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Day Hiking
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orienteering
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horseback Riding/Trail Riding
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hunting
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shooting (Trap/Skeet/Target)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Archery
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowmobiling
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail Biking (Motorized)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moto-cross
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ATV/Off Road Vehicles
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visiting a museum, live theatre, art gallery, etc. (not movies)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doing a craft or hobby (photography, woodwork, sewing, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taking part in drama, music (singing or playing), drawing, writing, etc.
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dancing (social, folk, ballet, jazz, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attending educational courses
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playing bingo, casinos, etc.
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playing video and electronic games
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attending a sports event as a spectator
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gardening
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify) _____
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify) _____

3. (a) Is there any leisure or recreational activity that you **DO NOT** take part in, but you **WOULD LIKE** to start doing regularly? (Please check **ONE** box only.)

☐ No Go to question 4(a), page 5.  
☐ Yes Please continue.

3. (b) Please specify which leisure or recreational activity you would **most like to start**. (Name **ONE** activity only.)

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

3. (c) People have many reasons for **NOT** taking part in a leisure or recreational activity. Based on the activity you would **most like to start**, how **IMPORTANT** are **EACH** of the following reasons for not starting this activity. (Please circle **ONE** number for **EACH**.)

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Admission fees or other charges for facilities or programs	1	2	3	4
The cost (rental or purchase) of equipment, material and supplies	1	2	3	4
The recreational facilities or areas are overcrowded	1	2	3	4
The recreational facilities or areas are poorly kept or maintained	1	2	3	4
I don't know where I can take part in this activity	1	2	3	4
It is difficult to find others to do it with	1	2	3	4
I don't know where I can learn the activity	1	2	3	4
There is no opportunity to do it near my home	1	2	3	4
The cost of transportation	1	2	3	4
Lack of transportation	1	2	3	4
Too busy with my family	1	2	3	4
Too busy with my work	1	2	3	4
I don't have the physical abilities	1	2	3	4
I am physically unable to take part	1	2	3	4
I am not at ease in social situations	1	2	3	4

4. (a) Have you done volunteer work connected with recreation, sports or parks in the **PAST 12 MONTHS**? (Please check **ONE** only.)

☐ No Go to question 5, page 6.  
☐ Yes Please continue.

4. (b) With what kind of group did you work as a volunteer? (Please check **ALL** boxes that apply.)

☐ Community League or Association  
☐ Youth Group (Cubs, Guides, Cadets, etc.)  
☐ School  
☐ Church  
☐ Cultural Group  
☐ Service Club  
☐ Local Sport Team or Club  
☐ Recreation or Parks Board  
☐ Special Sport/Recreation Event (tournaments, Regional Games, Olympic Games, etc.)  
☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

4. (c) What job(s) did you do as a volunteer? (Please check **ALL** boxes that apply.)

☐ Executive (President, Secretary, etc.)  
☐ Committee Member  
☐ Coach, Manager or Instructor  
☐ Volunteer Worker  
☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

4. (d) Did you receive any training for your volunteer job(s)?

☐ No Go to question 4(f)  
☐ Yes Please continue.

4. (e) What type of training did you receive?

☐ Informal Training (on-the-job training)  
☐ Formal Training (courses)

4. (f) On the average, how many hours per week did you spend doing volunteer work during the **PAST 12 MONTHS**? (Please check **ONE** only.)

1-5 hours \_\_\_\_\_ 6-10 hours \_\_\_\_\_ 11-15 hours \_\_\_\_\_ more than 15 hours \_\_\_\_\_



We would like to know your opinions on the following topics. Your answers will help us plan better parks and recreation services to meet your needs.

5. How important is it to you that the Provincial Government develop and maintain areas: (Please circle ONE number for EACH.)

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
	1	2	3 4
To protect areas of natural interest			
To provide outdoor recreation opportunities (fishing, boating, cross-country skiing, etc.)	1	2	3 4
To provide "outdoor experience" opportunities in wilderness settings such as hiking trails, long canoe trip routes and backpacking trails	1	2	3 4

6. In your opinion, should the following activities or services be allowed in provincial parks and recreation areas? (Please circle ONE number for EACH.)

	Yes	No	No Opinion
private cottages	1	2	3
primitive rental cabins	1	2	3
hostels or dormitories	1	2	3
hotels or motels	1	2	3
resorts	1	2	3
courts (tennis, volleyball, etc.)	1	2	3
playing fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)	1	2	3
golf courses, ski areas	1	2	3
grocery stores and laundromats	1	2	3
restaurants or lounges	1	2	3
gas stations	1	2	3
hunting	1	2	3
snowmobiling	1	2	3
horse rentals	1	2	3
major sports events (eg. rodeos, sport competitions)	1	2	3

## Accommodation facilities:

private cottages  
primitive rental cabins  
hostels or dormitories  
hotels or motels  
resorts

## Sport facilities:

courts (tennis, volleyball, etc.)  
playing fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)  
golf courses, ski areas

## Service facilities:

grocery stores and laundromats  
restaurants or lounges  
gas stations

## Outdoor Activities:

hunting  
snowmobiling  
horse rentals  
major sports events (eg. rodeos, sport competitions)

This part of the survey requests general information about you and the other people who live in your household.

ALL REPLIES WILL BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

7. What is your sex?

Male ☐ ☐  
Female ☐ ☐

8. What year were you born? 19 \_\_\_\_

9. What is the HIGHEST level of education YOU have completed? (Please check ONE box only.)

Elementary school ☐ ☐  
Junior high school ☐ ☐  
Senior high school ☐ ☐  
Technical or vocational program ☐ ☐  
University undergraduate program ☐ ☐  
University graduate program ☐ ☐  
Other (please describe) ☐ ☐

10. (a) In what village, town or city do you live?

Please specify : \_\_\_\_\_

10. (b) If you live on a farm or acreage, to what village, town or city is your mail addressed?

Please specify : \_\_\_\_\_

11. Which of the following best describes your household? (Please check ONE box only.)

Couple with no children ☐ ☐  
Couple with children ☐ ☐  
Single person ☐ ☐  
Single parent family ☐ ☐  
Two or more unrelated single adults ☐ ☐  
Two or more related adults ☐ ☐  
Other (please describe) ☐ ☐

12. How many members of your household are in the following age groups? Please specify the **NUMBER OF PEOPLE** in each **AGE GROUP**. (Do not forget to include yourself.)

	How Many?
Children under 6 years of age	<input type="text"/>
Children from 6 to 17	<input type="text"/>
Adults from 18 to 29	<input type="text"/>
Adults from 30 to 49	<input type="text"/>
Adults from 50 to 64	<input type="text"/>
Adults 65 years and over	<input type="text"/>

13. (a) How many people from your household received an income during the **PAST 12 MONTHS**?

Please specify the **NUMBER OF PEOPLE** \_\_\_\_\_

13. (b) Approximately, what was the **TOTAL INCOME** that you and members of your household received during the **PAST 12 MONTHS**? (Please check **ONE** box only.)

less than \$10,001	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$10,001 to \$30,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$30,001 to \$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$50,001 to \$70,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$70,001 to \$90,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$90,001 or more	<input type="checkbox"/>

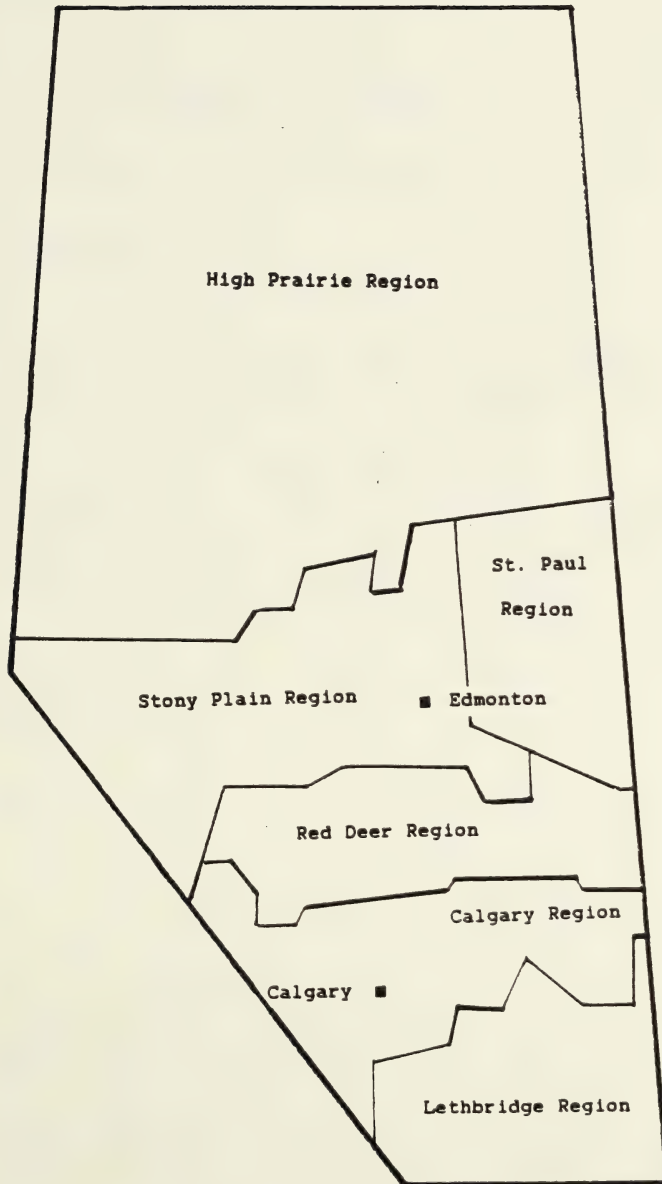
Is there anything else you would like to tell us about parks or recreation? If so, please use this space for that purpose.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE in answering and returning this questionnaire. Please remember that the envelope enclosed does not require postage.**

If you would like a summary of the results, write your name and address on the back of the return envelope. We will make sure that you get a copy.

Alberta Recreation and Parks  
8th Floor Standard Life Centre  
10405 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 9Z9

APPENDIX B:  
REGIONAL MAP OF ALBERTA



## APPENDIX C

### CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

The chart below provides the 95% confidence intervals for the estimates of proportions contained in this report.

Example: To assess the confidence intervals for a sample of 500 and an observed proportion (percentage) of 60%:

1. Select the sample size of 500 in the table below, and move across the row to the column which is headed 40% or 60%. This value is  $\pm 4.3\%$ .
2. The confidence intervals are thus 60%  $\pm 4.3\%$  or 55.7% and 64.3%. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the actual percentage in the population lies between 55.7% and 64.3%.

Survey Percentages at or Near These Levels

Sample Size	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
	$\pm$	$\pm$	$\pm$	$\pm$	$\pm$
25	11.8%	15.7%	18.0%	19.2%	19.6%
50	8.3	11.1	12.7	13.6	13.9
100	5.9	7.8	9.0	9.6	9.8
150	4.8	6.4	7.3	7.8	8.0
200	4.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	6.9
250	3.7	5.0	5.7	6.1	6.2
300	3.4	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.7
400	2.9	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.9
500	2.6	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.4
600	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.0
700	2.2	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.7
800	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5
900	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.3
1000	1.9	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.1
1250	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8
1500	1.5	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.5
1750	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.3
2000	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2
2500	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0
3000	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.8
4000	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5



## APPENDIX D

### POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

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#### ESTIMATED PARTICIPATION BY ALBERTANS

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VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION \* 535,603

TYPE OF GROUP \*\*

Community League or Association	157,600
Youth Group	88,128
School	135,597
Church	144,072
Cultural Group	47,457
Service Club	93,233
Local Sport Team/Club	179,631
Recreation or Parks Board	110,870
Special Sport/Rec. Event	101,659

TYPE OF JOB \*\*

Executive	145,764
Committee Member	164,411
Coach, Manager, Instructor	135,573
Volunteer Worker	371,197

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS \*\*\* 4,095,866 hours

or 2.4 hours for  
every Alberta  
adult

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\* Based on population figures for adults 18 years or over (1,695,305) with correction for response bias.

\*\* Note: These figures sum to more than 535,603 since respondents may have volunteered for more than one group.

\*\*\* Computed from the following information:

1 to 5 hours (mean=3 hours)	19.9% of population
6 to 10 hours (mean=8 hours)	6.2%
11 to 15 hours (mean=13 hours)	2.3%
More than 15 hours (mean=16 hours)	6.4%







N.L.C. - B.N.C.



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